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THE WORLD THIS MORNING

Call for amnesty

BEIJING, March 6, (AP): More than 40 prominent scientists have joined the growing number of intellectuals demanding democracy and amnesty for prisoners of conscience, a spokesman for the group said today.

Women's party

ATHENS, March 6, (AP): Margaret Papanicolaou, the estranged American-born wife of embattled Premier Andreas Papanicolaou, has reportedly said she does not rule out transforming her grassroots feminist organisation into a women's political party.

Child sex ring

BANGKOK, March 6, (UPI): Two Americans released on bail after their arrest on charges of running a child sex ring have been taken back into custody at the request of the FBI in connection with offences in the United States, a senior Thai policeman said today.

Landslides

GUMUSHANE, Turkey, March 6, (Reuters): More than 90 houses in a northern Turkish village have collapsed after landslides and at least 20 villages are still threatened, a Turkish provincial official said today.

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○ المکار خدا اور خیر کو پیش
○ نظر رکھیں، اعلیٰ حضرت امیر
○ پاکستان اپنے دفاع کی مکمل
○ صلاحیت رکھتا ہے، بینظیر
○ تبت میں خونریز جنگ
○ ۱۰۰ افراد ہلاک
○ فلسطینی ریاست دو سال
○ تک قائم ہو جائے گی
○ پنجاب میں سکھ انتہا
○ پسندوں کو روک دیا گیا۔
○ فلسطینی گروپ کی طرف
○ سے رشتی کو قتل کرنے کا
○ اعلان
○ بھارت میں دہلی شراب
○ پینے سے ۱۳ افراد ہلاک

WEATHER

TEMPERATURE will be around normal with light to moderate southerly wind and some clouds will appear.
State of sea: slight to moderate
High water: 11.30 am
Low water: 6.00 am & 6.00 pm
Sunrise: 6.07 am
Sunset: 5.51 pm
Maximum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 26°C 79°F
Ahmad: 26°C 79°F
Fahala: 25°C 77°F
Minimum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 13°C 55°F
Ahmad: 14°C 57°F
Fahala: 13°C 55°F
Maximum temperatures expected:
Kuwait: 27°C 81°F
Ahmad: 26°C 79°F
Fahala: 26°C 79°F
Maximum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 55 per cent
Ahmad: 56 per cent
Fahala: 60 per cent

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Serve the country and people, officials told

Amir stresses need for co-operation

KUWAIT, March 6, (KUNA): HH the Amir said today that "an objective move" will be made to lead the country from the 1980s era to the 1990s.

He said the move will affect all aspects of life — economic, social, political and others. He urged citizens to take part "in the move" which will boost Kuwait's position internally and externally.

The Amir in an address to the undersecretaries, assistant undersecretaries and directors of various ministries also said that Kuwaitis want their country to be on an equal footing with developed nations.

The Amir stressed the need for co-operation and solidarity to achieve the goals in different fields.

The Amir exhorted senior officials to hold regular meetings to co-ordinate activities to achieve projected administrative developments.

He added there are two aspects of responsibility: serving the



HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince receiving the high officials.

country and serving the people. "Responsible officials should follow God and their conscience while performing their duties."

Commenting on the recent bonus for a large number of government employees, military

personnel and pensioners the Amir said: "It will not be the last."

Information Ministry Undersecretary Abdul Aziz Mohamed Jaffer congratulated the Amir on behalf of his colleagues on the

occasion of the country's 28th National Day and thanked him for the bonus awarded.

HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah was also present during the meeting.

104 Sikhs freed under Rajiv's peace plan

AMRITSAR, March 6, (Agencies): The government today moved to implement Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's election-year strategy to end Sikh political extremism in northern Punjab, freeing 104 Sikhs jailed for more than four years without trial, officials said.

Punjab Police Director K.P.S. Gill greeted the 104 detainees in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar, where they were flown in two planes from a jail in the western Rajasthan state city of Jodhpur. Officials said the prisoners would be allowed to go to their homes tomorrow.

They reported 84 other prisoners remaining in the Jodhpur facility had been formally re-arrested to face criminal charges related to a campaign by Sikh radicals to create in Punjab the Sikh nation of "Khalistan."

Among those freed today from Jodhpur was Gurcharan Singh Tohra, head of the Sikh Temple Management Committee, which controls most Sikh shrines and temple funds and is considered the most powerful Sikh organisation.

Actions

Violence in the five-year-long drive has left more than 5,000 people dead, and although actions by the radicals have lately decreased, they have shown no signs of abandoning their demands that India's 16 million Sikhs be given a separate nation to escape alleged discrimination by the Hindu-dominated government.

Officials said of the 84 re-arrested prisoners, 79 were facing charges in Punjab, while two would be sent to New Delhi and three others would remain in Rajasthan.

All of the prisoners were among 368 Sikhs arrested when troops in June 1984 stormed the Golden Temple of Amritsar, Sikhdom's holiest shrine, to end an occupation by hundreds of heavily armed extremists led by Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale. He was among some 600 people killed in the assault.

The Jodhpur detainees were all charged with "waging war against the state," but have never been tried.

Their imprisonment has enraged most Sikhs, who allege in claims backed by human rights

Death toll rises to 132 in Gujarat liquor tragedy

AHMEDABAD, March 6, (Agencies): The Gujarat government today rushed private doctors, medical students and volunteers into a battle to save the lives of hundreds of people who drank toxic bootleg liquor, as the death toll in the state's worst such tragedy rose to 132.

Physicians struggling to overcome shortages of medicines and equipment said the fatality toll would continue to climb as many patients afflicted by the brew were close to death.

Gujarat Chief Minister Amar-sinh Chaudhury ordered a judicial inquiry into the tragedy in the city of Baroda and police officials said a separate probe was being conducted by the state's Criminal Investigation Department.

Charge

In addition, Chaudhury directed that the senior police official in charge of the neighbourhood where the drink was sold be transferred and a number of his junior officers be suspended.

Police arrested three people

who supplied the liquor. Several policemen were suspended for failing to avert the tragedy, the government said.

The moves were required by a law passed last year by the state assembly as part of an effort to combat bootlegging, a major organised crime racket in Gujarat, where alcoholic beverages are outlawed.

D.N. Shah, the medical superintendent at Baroda's government-run Sir Sayaji General Hospital, said in a telephone interview that at least 82 people died last night and today raising to 132 the number of people reported killed since Saturday by the effects of "lathra," an illegal concoction containing methyl alcohol.

Most of those who consumed the cheap moonshine were impoverished labourers, sweepers and garbage-pickers, said police in Baroda, 80 miles (130 km) southeast of the state capital of Ahmedabad.

Police and health officials said hundreds of people were being

treated for toxic poisoning at the government-run hospital and private nursing homes and that admissions were continuing.

Authorities believed that many more people had consumed the drink, but were in hiding because they feared prosecution under the state's prohibition law, police said.

They said volunteers were dispatched to the densely populated Wadi neighbourhood where the brew was sold to inform residents that no legal action would be taken against those who had consumed it and urge that anyone afflicted by poisoning seek medical treatment.

Chances

"Private and trainee doctors have been called" to help the General Hospital's staff, Shah said. "The chances of survival of those admitted are remote."

"Most of the victims are suffering from a loss of sight, stomach pain, dehydration and unconsciousness," said Kiran Desai, the senior medical officer at the facility.

Arafat ready to visit Israel if Arabs approve

KUWAIT, March 6, (AP): PLO chairman Yasser Arafat has offered to revive a 1981 ceasefire accord with the Israelis in south Lebanon and says he is ready to visit Israel if Arab governments approve, newspapers reported today.

But he said reviving that short-lived ceasefire, mediated by the UN peacekeeping force in south Lebanon, "should only take place according to our conditions."

In an interview with editors of several Kuwaiti dailies, he stressed that the PLO would agree to a truce if Israel "stops its raids in the region, ends its deportation of Palestinians and stops using arms against the uprising" in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He said that Israel was negotiating with the PLO through the United Nations for a halt to guerrilla operations from south Lebanon.

Violated

Arafat's offer came amid Israeli claims that guerrilla raids launched against Israel's self-designated "security zone" in south Lebanon violated the renunciation of terrorism Arafat made last December, when he also recognised Israel.

Arafat has repeatedly said that guerrilla attacks on military targets in Israel and the occupied territories do not constitute terrorism.

In the interview, Arafat said: "I can go to Israel only if my trip is endorsed by all Arabs. I am not (Anwar) Sadat to go to Jerusalem for unilateral negotiations."

Arafat predicted that "an independent Palestinian state will be set up within two years."

He pledged that even if an international peace conference were held, as the PLO and the Arabs demand, the 14-month-old Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza "will continue during the convening of the conference... halting the uprising is out of the question."

Arafat met HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah today and later left Kuwait.

Sex survey angers UK women

LONDON, March 6, (KUNA): A storm of protest broke out today over a British government sex survey, it was reported here.

Complaints flooded in from women all over the UK who had been telephoned at random by British Home Office researchers and asked: "Have you ever been raped?" The questions: "Has your husband sexually assaulted you? Has your husband ever been physically violent towards you?"

Genuine

Some women telephoned the Home Office immediately unable to believe that the survey was genuine, only to find out that it was an official crime study being carried out by an independent market research company on the Home Office's behalf.

Angry MPs intend to raise the matter in the House of Commons, this week.

A Democrat MP, Ray Michie, said that the survey must have caused "untold misery and distress" to a huge number of people.

Waldegrave holds talks in Jordan

Britain opposes creation of a Palestinian state

AMMAN, March 6, (Agencies): King Hussein met today with the British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, William Waldegrave, and discussed the Middle East peace process, the official Jordan news agency reported.

The agency, Petra, said Hussein, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qassem conferred with Waldegrave in separate meetings.

Waldegrave said yesterday in occupied Jerusalem that Britain opposes the creation of an independent Palestinian state and will not participate in a peace conference that attempts to impose a solution on Israel.

He also urged Israel to launch a dialogue with the PLO, saying the group has undergone a genuine change and abandoned its dream of an independent state.

Convinced

"I am convinced from my conversations with Palestinians that something has happened. I believe that a dream has died," Waldegrave said in a speech to Israel's Council for Foreign Relations, a private think-tank.

Israel, which considers the PLO a terrorist organisation, has ruled it out as a negotiating partner. In recent weeks, the government has pointed to several attempted Palestinian guerrilla attacks from Lebanon, arguing they prove chairman Yasser Arafat's renunciation of terrorism was an empty promise.

Waldegrave noted Arafat may not control PLO factions attempting such attacks, but "what he does control is his own statements."

He said Arafat must clearly and unequivocally condemn "those factions of the Palestinian movement that are still engaged in military terrorism actions."

After his speech, Waldegrave told reporters Britain opposes creation of an independent Palestinian state.

"A third state would not be our preferred solution," he said.

But he said the change within the Palestinian camp and the 14-month Palestinian rebellion in the occupied territories makes it necessary for Israel to explore paths to peace, including a dialogue with the PLO.

He also said he understood the PLO wanted a confederation with Jordan.

He told reporters Arafat had told him confederation with Jordan was not an option but an objective for the PLO.

Relief

The Hussein-Waldegrave meeting today "centred on Jordan's view of Middle East developments and the international efforts to convene a Mideast peace conference," Petra said.

It said the Jordanian monarch "expressed his relief over the United Kingdom's understanding position on the feuding parties in the region and its serious efforts to ensure a comprehensive move towards holding the international conference."

Earlier today, Rifai conferred with the British official on "various Middle East issues, primarily the situation of Palestinians under Israeli occupation," state-run Jordan Radio said. The radio did not disclose further details of the meeting.

Israelis release 130 Palestinians

GAZA, March 6, (Reuters): Israel freed 130 Palestinian prisoners as a goodwill gesture today but violence raged in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank where troops shot dead two Palestinian protesters and wounded 14.

The Army said it freed the inmates from Ketziot prison camp in Israel to mark the Isra and Miraj marking the Prophet Mohammed's (PBUH) ascent to heaven.

Lieutenant-Colonel David Hakhm told the 130 inmates: "This is a sign of goodwill from the military government in order to pacify the area and demonstrate our desire to re-establish peace, order and quiet."

Killings

Troops killed Ahmed Ramadan Al Azzami, 19, while dispersing stone-throwers near Jabalya camp in Gaza, and Ibrahim Mohammed Al Jabr, 24, during a search-and-arrest operation in Salem village in the West Bank, Arab and Israeli sources said.

The killings, the first in four days in the occupied territories, brought the death toll in the 15-month-old Palestinian uprising to 397 Arabs and 16 Jews.

Palestinians said six Jabalya camp residents were wounded and three in Gaza city and Sha'ti camp, all in Gaza. One was also wounded in Salem, near Nabulus. Security sources said Palestinian prisoner, Mahmoud Youssef Al Masri, 34, of Rafah, was found dead in the Shin Bet secret police's interrogation room at Gaza central prison.

Beaten

Palestinian sources charged he was beaten to death. Israel radio quoted security officials as saying he was treated for stomach ulcers shortly before dying.

The prison service and the police both began investigations into the death.

Throughout the territories, Palestinians observed a general strike, boycotting jobs and shutting down public transport in protest at Israel's closure of all 1,200 schools in the West Bank and night of the 250 schools in the Gaza Strip.

In the West Bank, troops allowed the 100,000 residents of Nabulus to leave their homes for the first time in 10 days, lifting a curfew imposed when a soldier was killed by Palestinians who dropped a building block on his head.

DAY BY DAY

ONCE again we request the Ministry of Interior and other senior ministry officials to protect lives of people from those who do not find better places other than chalets to go hunting. These hunters have become so reckless in their activities that they have started shooting pets, pigeons and other birds. These people could inadvertently pose a threat to their own children.

We had written previously about this subject, and the Interior Ministry then acted to stop such intruders from menacing people with their rifles.

Of late, the hunters have returned as if there were no pigeons to be found except in front of chalets of people seeking comfort and relaxation.

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GCC ministers discuss Lebanon

RIYADH, March 6, (AP): Foreign ministers of the GCC states met today to find ways to help push Iran and Iraq toward a peace treaty, end Lebanon's civil war and settle the Palestinian issue.

Informed Saudi sources said Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad reported on efforts by a six-member Arab League committee that he heads to reconcile

Lebanon's feuding Christians and Muslims and end the country's 14-year-old civil war.

The ministers gathered in the Saudi capital of Riyadh yesterday for informal discussions.

The formal session got underway a day late because Sheikh Sabah paid a lightning visit to Damascus for talks with President Hafez Assad of Syria, the main power broker in Lebanon.

Moderate Arab states are seeking to end Syria's feuds with Iraq, Egypt and the PLO to achieve long-elusive Arab unity before convening an Arab summit that will discuss Lebanon and the Arab-Israeli peacemaking process.

In a brief inaugural speech before the conference went into closed-door session, Bahraini Foreign Minister, Sheikh Mohammad Bin Mubarak

hailed Sheikh Sabah's efforts "in shouldering a tremendous Arab responsibility... to bring peace and reconciliation" to Lebanon.

Bahrain is the current chairman of the GCC.

On the Palestinian issue, Sheikh Mohammad said: "Our hearts are torn with pain for what the Palestinian people are suffering in the face of the terrorist."

(Continued on Page 2)

NATO urges Moscow to cut deep into military might in Eastern Europe

VIENNA, March 6, (AP): NATO today urged the Soviet Union to cut deep into its military might in Eastern Europe to give impetus to new talks aimed at reducing troops, tanks and artillery on the world's most heavily armed continent.

However, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze countered the alliance's proposals with demands for both East and West to make reductions of troops, tactical nuclear weapons and combat aircraft.

In outlining proposals that will be discussed when negotiations begin on Thursday, Shevardnadze said both blocs should reduce troops and "the main categories of arms" by 10 to 15 per cent over the next two to three years.

In a second phase of two to three years, further cuts of about 25 per cent, or half a million men, should be made by each side, Shevardnadze said.

NATO maintains that the Warsaw Pact has almost a 2-to-1 advantage in tanks and artillery and is calling for imbalanced reductions, excluding missiles and aircraft.

Along the East-West divide, Shevardnadze said, the two blocs should agree on areas where they would reduce, limit or withdraw "the most dangerous, destabilizing kinds of arms."

Tactical nuclear arms would also be withdrawn from those zones, he told foreign ministers gathered in Vienna's Hofburg Palace for a three-day, 35-nation meeting prior to the talks' opening.

Shevardnadze also proposed separate negotiations on "reducing and completely eliminating tactical nuclear arms in Europe as soon as possible."

His speech ran counter to US aims to keep short-range nuclear weapons in West Germany, which has asked NATO to delay any decision on modernising such forces for at least two years.

Britain's Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe, speaking after Shevardnadze and outlining NATO's proposals for the new talks, also stressed the need to maintain a nuclear presence in Europe.

Howe said Shevardnadze's proposals, while differing from the West's, were worthy of serious study.

"The Vienna negotiations must not become a competition for who can put forward the more radical proposals," Howe said. "They are a serious quest for stability and security and not a competitive striptease."

Howe proposed an overall ceiling of 40,000 tanks, 33,000 artillery and 56,000 armoured personnel carriers in Europe. Those totals should be equally divided on each side — the 16 NATO nations and seven Warsaw Pact countries.



Eduard Shevardnadze

He also proposed a limit of 3,200 tanks, 1,700 artillery pieces and 6,000 armoured troop carriers stationed outside national borders on each side.

That would slice the Soviet armoured presence in Eastern Europe. Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev announced in December a unilateral withdrawal of six tank divisions and 50,000 men from East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Hungary in the next two years.

But the Soviet Union currently has some 10,000 tanks stationed outside its borders, meaning further cuts would be needed to meet the NATO proposals.

Howe said NATO is seeking a two-thirds reduction "in the massed ranks of Soviet tanks and artillery in Europe and by well over half in armoured troop carriers."

This would not threaten Soviet security, he stressed, because "the Soviet Union will still have more tanks within the area than the United States and West Germany combined."

Contrast Shevardnadze, by contrast, said he was not proposing any concrete numbers, arguing that the fixing of such ceilings should be left to experts.

US Secretary of State James Baker, in his maiden speech before an international forum, meanwhile urged the Soviets to abandon the so-called "Brezhnev doctrine" used to justify the Kremlin-led invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968.

Baker also announced that President George Bush was exploring ways to accelerate the removal of US chemical weapons from West Germany.

He said the Soviet Union had enormous stocks of such weapons threatening Europe and called on Moscow to join the United States in mutual destruction of "these frightening weapons."

In a largely conciliatory speech, he urged the Soviet Union to put into practical use the "new thinking" guiding Gorbachev's foreign and domestic policies.

"New thinking and the Brezhnev doctrine are in fundamental conflict," he said.

28,000 refugees arrive in Uganda

Sudanese flee fighting between Army and rebels

NAIROBI, March 6, (Reuters): Nearly 30,000 Sudanese refugees have poured into northern Uganda since Friday, fleeing intensified fighting between rebels and the Sudanese Army, aid workers said today.

"We are talking about a total of 28,000 refugees who have arrived in Uganda since Friday," Tessa Williams, spokeswoman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Nairobi said.

Most were from the border town of Nimule where rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) said they seized from government troops on Friday.

About 25,000 refugees were camped at Bibia, a village some 20 km (12 miles) south of Nimule. Another 3,000 were at Kitgum, 80 km (50 miles) to the southeast.

Accommodation

The UNHCR and the British charity Oxfam, were making arrangements to provide them with temporary accommodation, Williams said.

"We have airlifted 38 tonnes of food from the Ugandan capital, Kampala, to the refugees at Bibia and more is on its way. The physical condition of most of the refugees is not that serious at the moment but they are being

screened medically," she added. A spokeswoman for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Nairobi said that it was providing the refugees at Bibia with blankets and other relief supplies.

It had also given the UNHCR a transport plane to airlift food from Kampala to Adjumani, near Bibia, from where lorries would take it to the refugees.

A UNHCR spokesman in Kampala told the state-owned New Vision newspaper today that a few government troops were among the refugees at Bibia, but Williams declined to comment on this.

The majority of refugees from Sudan's six-year-old civil war — an estimated 400,000 — are in Ethiopia. About 14,000 arrived in Uganda before the latest fighting.

Domination

The SPLA, fighting what it considers to be the domination of the mainly Christian Arab north, has escalated its bush war in the past month and claimed a series of victories against the government.

The rebels said last week that Nimule was the fifth government-held town to be captured by the SPLA in southern Sudan

in a week. They listed the others as Nasir, Liria, Parajok and Torit, all in the extreme southeast, and said the rebels controlled all of eastern Equatoria province.

The upsurge in the war coincides with a political crisis that has rocked Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi, who yesterday set up a "national salvation" government to try to negotiate peace with the rebels.

The formation of the new, broad-based government had been demanded by Army officers who expressed frustration at the lack of weapons and other resources to fight the SPLA.

Nearly 100 detained in Sri Lankan crackdown

COLOMBO, March 6, (UPI): Sri Lankan troops today detained nearly 100 suspected rebels of the ethnic Sinhalese majority on the second day of a massive crackdown against the leftist Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP), or Peoples Liberation Front, a senior military official said.

He said the crackdown was launched yesterday to pre-empt attacks the JVP might be planning during a three-day general strike the group called beginning tomorrow. The work stoppage is to coincide with the opening of Parliament by President Ranasinghe Premadasa on Wednesday.

Soldiers in full combat gear cordoned off the southern towns of Morawaka, Akuressa and Dickwella before dawn today and conducted house-to-house searches for JVP members, said the official, who declined to be identified.

He said nearly 100 suspected JVP operatives were arrested and handed over to police for questioning.

Confiscated On Sunday, troops began the crackdown by detaining 380 people in a similar sweep of a 15 square-mile (40 sq-km) area around Weligama, 90 miles (145 km) south of Colombo, the official said.

He said 18 of the detainees were identified as "hard-core" JVP members and were sent to an undisclosed military base for further questioning. The remaining prisoners were released, but their national identity cards were confiscated pending the completion of investigations into their background.

Indian troops drove the LTTE out of its main stronghold of Jaffna in late 1987 and since then, the group has been waging a classic guerrilla war from jungle bases in its struggle for an independent Tamil nation.

Sharma said. The group was pursued its drive despite peace overtures by Premadasa, who took office on Jan 2 and pledged to negotiate with the extremists if they renounced violence.

The crackdown against the JVP came a day after India claimed to have destroyed one of the largest LTTE bases in northeastern province during a three-day long operation.

Pimrose Sharma, a spokeswoman for India's diplomatic mission in Colombo, said between 40 and 50 rebels were killed, while eight Indian soldiers died and 13 were wounded.

The base in dense jungle near Mullaitivu, 170 miles (270 km) northeast of Colombo, consisted of three camps and "we recovered sophisticated weapons, including rifles and grenades," Sharma said.

Indian troops drove the LTTE out of its main stronghold of Jaffna in late 1987 and since then, the group has been waging a classic guerrilla war from jungle bases in its struggle for an independent Tamil nation.

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Even the one-legged man is not exempted from a law banning smoking in public places in the Manila suburb of Quezon City. (Reuters wirephoto)

Democrats trying to beat Bush, says Tower

WASHINGTON, March 6, (Reuters): The controversy over John Tower's nomination as defence secretary is degenerating into a political contest between the White House and the Senate in which the issues at stake are becoming increasingly obscured.

On Sunday, Tower accused Democrats in the Senate of opposing him in an effort to hand President Bush an early defeat.

"What will become clear here is that perhaps John Tower is not really the issue John Tower was simply the instrument by which the President was defeated on a major decision," Tower said in a television interview.

"I become really sort of secondary to this whole thing," he said. The White House and Senate Republicans are still hoping to win the battle for Senate approval of Tower's nomination but as debate resumed today the timing of a vote was still unclear.

Tower was not asked to spell out his allegation but Republican senators have also accused the Democrats of political motives, suggesting they want to weaken Bush so

they can win budget and other battles later in his presidency.

But Democrats, who control the Senate by a 55-45 margin, deny the charges and insist it is Tower's alleged drinking, womanising and closeness with defence contractors that is threatening his nomination.

They accuse Bush's aides of turning the Tower vote into a partisan fight by inviting all Republican senators on the Senate Armed Services Committee to the White House to convince them the emerging Democratic concern about drinking was unfounded.

The committee subsequently recommended on a party line 11-7 vote that the Senate reject Tower and Democrats have been lining up against him, ever since.

The battle has also soured relations between Congress and the Defence Department and some Pentagon officials predict a stormy period where compromise over such key issues as trimming military spending will be difficult whoever is in the top job.

Hundreds held in Philippine crackdown on smoking

MANILA, March 6, (Reuters): Startled bus passengers, cafe customers and hospital visitors were hauled off to police stations at the start of a new crackdown on smoking in public.

"Our jails are so packed we don't know where to put people," Corporal Bonifacio Dragan said.

Quezon City officials said today 214 smokers were arrested in the first 24 hours of an anti-smoking ban in the Manila suburb of two million people.

Punishes The local law bans smoking in public places in Quezon and punishes offenders with 10 days in jail or fines of up to 200 pesos (\$9.50). Government offices, schools, hospitals, bars, cinemas, discos, restaurants and shopping centres, must designate special areas for smokers.

Officials said most of those rounded up by police were bus and jeepney mini-bus passengers. At least 20 were picked up in a hospital crowded with patients.

Jose Paculdo, a smoker and the only one of the 23 Quezon councillors to vote against the ban, denounced it as unlawful.

"One of man's basic liberties is the pursuit of happiness," he said.

"If it's a man's pleasure to smoke himself to death, that is his right."

GCC ministers discuss Lebanon

(Continued from Page 1)

oppressive confrontation of the Israeli enemy."

He affirmed GCC support for the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and said it "will lead, God willing, to the fulfilment of the Palestinian people's aspirations for an independent state on their national soil."

On the Iran-Iraq war, he reported contacts by the GCC and Bahrain with Tehran and Baghdad to help bolster prospects for a peace treaty following the Aug 20 ceasefire in the eight-year-old war.

The sources, who spoke on condition they were not named, said that Iraqi and Iranian agreement to hold direct peace talks under United Nations auspices is leading to a new positive stage and that the GCC ministers will seek to determine how the alliance can further that.

Philippine rebels

MANILA, March 6, (Reuters): Rebel Philippine Army officers, accusing President Corazon Aquino of protecting the rich elite, today demanded political reforms and the formation of a crisis government to avert a new coup.

France, Japan to cut oil purchases from Iran over Rushdie

MANAMA, March 6, (UPI): France and Japan have asked their oil companies to restrict purchases of Iranian crude over the Salman Rushdie affair, an oil industry newsletter said today, and supporters of Ayatollah Khomeini burst into tears during a Tehran sermon praising the Iranian leader's death call against the Indian-born author.

"Both the Japanese and French governments have approached their oil companies in an effort to persuade them to curb liftings of Iranian oil in the current unfavourable political climate," the Nicosia-based Middle East Economic Survey said today.

The newsletter said that while the French government did not directly link its suggestion to curb Iranian oil imports to the Rushdie affair, the only major diplomatic incident in Iran's relations with the West since last summer's Aug 20 UN-sponsored Gulf war ceasefire has been Khomeini's death call against the British author.

Implement On Tuesday, Iran will decide on whether to implement a vote taken in its Parliament last week, calling for a break in diplomatic ties with Britain after what Tehran described as London's "hostile stance" to Khomeini's death call.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati meanwhile has been trying to drum up support for Khomeini's stance among Muslim nations, and sent Omani, Kuwaiti and United Arab Emirates messages yesterday asking them to ensure the Rushdie affair takes priority at a meeting of the 46-member Organisation of Islamic Conference, scheduled to take place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia later this month.

But Japan, a major consumer of Iranian oil and one of Tehran's five major trading partners, said it would not pull its diplomats out of Tehran at the moment even though it condemned the death call.

Gulf-based diplomatic sources said Western nations importing large quantities of Iranian oil have begun to slowly decrease their dependence on the single source.

Iran's case of human rights deterioration in relations between Iran and the West. Such a case would arise, for example, if Iranian hit squads assassinated Rushdie, the sources said.

Approaches The newsletter said Tokyo's powerful Ministry of International Trade and Industry, "has made informal approaches to Japanese companies, asking them to cut back their contract liftings of Iranian crude by some 20 per cent in the second quarter as compared with the first quarter."

It said Japanese buyers contracted to lift some 305,000 barrels per day of Iranian crude of which about 20,000 to 25,000 barrels a day from Mitsui and Tomon have apparently been sold to South Korea rather than imported into Japan.

MEES said the Japanese Trade Ministry's informal guideline is likely to target a reduction in Japanese Iranian oil imports to a maximum of 230,000 to 240,000 barrels a day.

The newsletter said the French government, which on Dec 2, 1988 lifted a ban on imports of Iranian oil imposed in Aug 1987, recommended that French oil companies reduce their imports of Iranian crude.

In a related development, the leader of a radical Palestinian group said yesterday his guerrillas will try to carry out Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini's death decree against Rushdie.

Ahmed Jibril, leader of the Marxist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said his men would carry out the killing in the defence of Islam and God.

104 Sikhs freed

(Continued from Page 1)

groups that the inmates were mostly innocent pilgrims jailed merely for being in the Golden Temple at the time of "Operation Blue Star."

The government freed 180 of the prisoners, including a number of elderly men and women, last year as part of an unsuccessful bid by Rajiv to encourage a dialogue with extremist groups.

Rajiv on Friday announced the release of the remaining 188 Sikhs under a new package of measures he claimed were aimed at restoring the political process in the state and isolating the separatists. The moves include a reduction of emergency powers given to police and arrangements to hold state-wide elections for local councils.

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Takeshita accepts blame for scandal

TOKYO, March 6, (AP): Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita said he was responsible for the sudden drop in public support in the wake of a major political scandal, but pledged to restore confidence by pursuing political reform, news reports said today.

"The Recruit case ... surfaced during my term as prime minister so there is no way for me to escape responsibility," Takeshita told reporters, according to the reports.

The prime minister, however, ruled out opposition party demands for the resignation of his entire cabinet.

"I feel strongly that it is my responsibility (now) to tackle reform of the public election law and the political funds regulations law in order to accurately abide with political ethics," he was quoted as saying during a visit to Shizuoka, 150 kilometres west of Tokyo.

The prime minister's remark came two days after the Tokyo

district public prosecutors' office indicted four people on bribery charges in connection with the Recruit stock-profiteering scandal.

Hiromasa Ezoe, founder and former chairman of Recruit Co., an information-employment conglomerate, was among the four arrested on Feb 13 on charges of bribery or violation of the nation's securities exchange law. Four others have also been apprehended by authorities but have yet to be charged.

Shares

Recruit officials reportedly sold some 687,000 unlisted shares of the real estate subsidiary Recruit-Cosmos Co. at bargain prices to politicians, their aides and other prominent figures up until September 1986.

Although he has repeatedly denied direct involvement, Takeshita is among 17 politicians — four of them from the opposition — implicated in the stock trading scandal.



Takeshita: blame

Meanwhile, the former head of the giant Nippon Telegraph and Telephone corporation (NTT) was arrested today on suspicion of bribery in a widening scandal that has rocked the Japanese government, the national broadcasting corporation NHK said.

Hisashi Shinto stepped down as chairman of NTT late last year after reports he had received huge profits from the sale of cut-rate shares in the Recruit-Cosmos company.

Afghan city strongly reinforced

Rebels strike near Soviet border

MAZAR-E-SHARIF, March 6, (Reuters): Three rockets hit heavily-defended Mazar-e-Sharif, capital of Afghanistan's northern Balkh province, over the weekend.

City officials said nobody was injured but it was the first time this year that mujahideen rebels fighting to overthrow the government of President Najibullah had struck in the region, which is far from their Pakistan supply bases.

Weakness

Since the rebels took over Kunduz province, further to the east, after Soviet troops began evacuating it three months ago, Mazar has been strongly reinforced.

Fifty watchtowers have been built around the town, each manned night and day by half a dozen troops and together forming a security cordon 40 km long.

According to the commander of the Mazar garrison, Major

Abdur-Rahman Darwish, the rebels do not have the forces to overrun the defences.

"Firing rockets on the city shows their weakness," he told journalists on a visit arranged by the Afghans.

At the airport, squadrons of Soviet-built bomb-carrying MiG-21s stand ready for takeoff. Ten Czechoslovak-built RL-39 trainers fly regular sorties, upgrading the skills of Afghan Air Force pilots.

In the town, armoured personnel carriers ferry men and equipment.

But despite all this military activity Mazar, best known as the town of the Muslim caliph Hazrat Ali, is relaxed and free from the shortages affecting Kabul.

Petrol is easily available at the government-fixed price of 30 Afghanis (15 cents at unofficial rates) a litre, as opposed to the 300-400 Afghanis a litre it brings

on the black market in Kabul.

The bazaar is full of flour, rice and sugar and there are no queues at the bakeries.

All the same, Mazar-e-Sharif was prepared for trouble at the weekend. At a traditional "buzkashi" game played by horsemen vying for the carcass of goat, a thunderflash was set off by a policeman to break up a crowd of illegal gamblers. The noise also dispersed half the spectators who believed it to be a rebel attack.

Government

And as in the rest of the country since the state of emergency was declared on Feb 18, Mazar-e-Sharif is under curfew to prevent rebel infiltration.

Meanwhile, UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said today he wanted to see a broadly-based provisional government set up in Kabul to help resolve the crisis in Afghanistan.

Such a government would

Mahdi pledges to end civil war

KHARTOUM, March 6, (Reuters): Sudan's prime minister, forced by the Army to give priority to ending a civil war largely centred round Islam, met rival politicians today to try to form his fifth government in nearly three years.

After a two-week crisis sparked by generals angry at lack of backing in their battle against southern rebels, Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi talked to the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) leader whose peace pact with rebels helped shatter his last coalition.

State Radio Omdurman said Mahdi met Mohammed Osman Al Mirghani, whose DUP is the country's second largest after the Prime Minister's Umma.

Mirghani late last year reached a pact with the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) rebels on the ending of the civil war which caused tens of thousands of deaths in the South since its outbreak in 1983.

Freeze

Parliament rejected the accord which called for a freeze on the introduction of strict Islamic sharia law before a national constitutional conference was held. The DUP quit the coalition in protest.

The radio today said Mahdi also sent top aides to talk to the militant National Islamic Front (NIF), which voted with Umma against the pact.

The NIF is the most vocal supporter of the introduction of sharia which includes amputation for thieves and executions for adulterers.

Sharia is anathema to the rebel SPLA and has been at the centre of the rebellion in the animist and Christian South where rebels are fighting to end what they see as the rule of a Muslim minority in Khartoum.

AIDS cases on the rise in Asia

BANGKOK, March 6, (AP): Delegates from 40 countries began meeting today to discuss controlling the spread of AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, which has one per cent of the AIDS cases reported worldwide.

Dr Hiroshi Nakajima, World Health Organisation director general, told a news conference that as of Feb 1, there had been 46 cases of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome reported in Southeast Asia and as of March 1, 1,438 cases in the western Pacific. "Countries in Asia and the Pacific, with one or two exceptions, have reported the smallest number of cases," Nakajima said in a speech at the session. "Since fewer than one per cent of all cases reported are in this region, we feel it deserves to be considered in a special way. Our major efforts must go toward preventing AIDS from spreading beyond the small foothold it has already established."

Malaysia hosts talks on refugee issue

KUALA LUMPUR, March 6, (Reuters): Refugee officials from 37 countries meet in Malaysia tomorrow to try to hammer out ways to resettle more than 300,000 Indo-Chinese boat people.

Delegates said they were optimistic that the meeting would draw up a comprehensive solution to an issue haunting many Southeast Asian countries 14 years after the end of the Vietnam war.

Boatloads of refugees still arrive in "first-asylum" countries such as Malaysia, Hong Kong and Thailand, eager for a chance of life away from their communist homeland.

Concessions

The asylum nations want to turn back non-genuine refugees, close down camps which cost them millions of dollars each year and get Vietnam to help halt the exodus and aid voluntary repatriation.

The first group of 75 refugees left Hong Kong last week under a voluntary repatriation of refugees.

programme but the bulk of the boat people do not want to go home.

The Kuala Lumpur talks, last in a series of meetings before an international conference in Geneva in June, will also cover refugees fleeing Laos and Kampuchea.

"The headway was made in the previous sessions but participating countries have begun to show their willingness to make concessions. Even Vietnam appears bent on seeking a solution," a Western diplomat said.

Assistant Foreign Minister Vu Khoan will lead the Vietnamese delegation to the three-day meeting, a Malaysian Foreign Ministry official said, adding that it was the first time Hanoi was sending a high-powered team to the talks.

A plan drafted after the last session of talks here in December contains fresh proposals to solve problems related to resettlement programmes, closure of transit camps in first asylum countries and repatriation of refugees.

Global warming will affect Bangladesh

DHAKA, March 6, (AP): President Hussain Muhammad Ershad said that most of Bangladesh will be submerged if the worst predictions about the greenhouse effect are realized.

Inaugurating an international conference on the greenhouse effect and its meaning for the coastal area of Bangladesh, the president said Bangladesh will probably be the worst victim of a rise in the sea level.

The President said the greenhouse effect was a global phenomenon demanding international and regional cooperation.

He expressed the hope that the advanced countries will do their best to restrain activities that contribute to global warming and other forms of environmental degradation.

R.M. Stewart, a scientist attending the conference from Canada, said Bangladesh might experience more frequent and more intense storms accompanied by tidal surges and increased rainfall, causing more severe floods, as a result of the greenhouse effect.

Move may renew civil war in Lebanon

Aoun forces blocking ports

BEIRUT, March 6, (Reuters): Christian-led troops launched a blockade of Lebanon's pirate ports today in a move that analysts say could renew civil war violence.

Officials said soldiers led by Christian Army commander Michel Aoun took four patrol boats out to sea to stop freighters docking at seven makeshift harbours run by rival militias.

They said Aoun ordered the patrol boats as part of a campaign to close down all ports outside government control, and stem the flow of Lebanon's dwindling wealth into militia purses.

The country's three serviceable Hawker hunter jets, built in the 1950s, have also been pressed into service to support the gunboats, the sources added.

Political analysts in Beirut say militias are unlikely to give up

their outlets to the sea without a fight, particularly as the illegal ports are the main source of income used to pay for the gunmen's weapons and wages.

Aoun, who heads a Christian military administration vying for power with a Muslim cabinet, extended his bailiwick last month when he took control of Beirut's 5th basin from Christian militiamen.

His Sunni Muslim rival, acting Prime Minister Selim Hoss, is opposed to the closure of ports. He wants official customs officers to take them over and keep them open.

Lebanon has been carved up into rival chunks of territory over the past 13 years, and the rival governments have little control over paramilitary groups.

Aoun has ordered the patrol boats to use force if necessary

against ships violating his ban on the ports, officials said.

The seven harbours scattered along the coast are used by Christian, Shiite Muslim and Druze forces.

On Sunday, Druze leader Walid Jumblatt said he would not shut his supporters' port at Jijeh, south of Beirut.

Jumblatt's Progressive Socialist Party, nominally allied to Syria, holds the rugged Shouf mountains southeast of Beirut and Jijeh gives it access to the outside world.

Aoun's ban does not include Jounieh, the major coastal resort in the hands of the Christian "Lebanese Forces" militia just to the north of the capital.

The officials said Aoun has set up a maritime operations room to supervise the crackdown on the pirate havens.

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Contests in educational techniques

OFFICIALS at the Ministry of Education intend to hold three contests in the field of educational techniques, according to the Assistant Undersecretary for Planning and Development at the Ministry of Education, Rashid Al Hamad.

The three contests include establishing the "Fifth Educational Techniques Exhibition", the production of educational television programmes and a contest for the best educational techniques for social curricula at all educational stages.

Opportunity

The Fifth Exhibition for Educational Techniques will be held on March 16, 1989. It aims at enhancing educational operations and giving school supervisors the opportunity to provide improved educational techniques.

The exhibition will comprise devices and models intended to serve education of science and mathematics at the primary, intermediate and secondary stages. Kindergartens may also participate through the introduction of educational models that benefit children curricula.

The television educational control section at the Educational Techniques Department will organise a contest for the production of television educational programmes for all educational stages.

Social curriculum teachers will introduce the latest techniques, Hamad said.

Indian envoy meets Shaheen

INDIAN Ambassador Nagendra Nath Jha, met yesterday with Sulaiman Majed Al Shaheen, undersecretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They discussed means to further strengthen co-operation between the two countries in addition to other matters of mutual interest.

They also discussed labour issues particularly the problem that is currently on at the Qairan project.

Palestinian donation drive

KUWAIT, March 6, (KUNA): The PLO office here today issued a decision forming a committee to collect jewels and ornaments from the public to support Palestinian steadfastness in the occupied territories.

The decision, carrying the signature of PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, pointed out that collection of the donations will be done in co-operation with popular organisations in Kuwait.

The 17-man committee is headed by Secretary of the Palestine National Fund Khairuldeen Abu Jeben.

Kuwait's first librarian dies

KUWAIT, March 6, (KUNA): Mulla Mohammed Saleh, the first librarian at the first library in Kuwait died yesterday.

Mulla Mohammed spent a great part of his life, more than 36 years, in serving what is now the state's Central Library from its inception in 1936 until he retired at 70 in 1969.

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Full support to Kuwaiti scientists, says Rashed

KUWAIT, March 6, (KUNA): Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Al Rashed today said Kuwait will spare no effort in extending support and assistance to Kuwaiti scientists to achieve prominent results.

Rashed, deputising for HH the Crown Prince, said in an opening address of "Catalysts in Oil Refining" conference that the progress of nations is measured by their scientific achievements and contribution to development.

The opening session of the conference, was attended by

seven cabinet ministers and a number of senior Kuwaiti officials.

Rashed lauded the support accorded by HH the Amir to science, scientists and scientific institutions, citing in particular the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science (KFAS) which was established in accordance with an Amir's desire.

The conference which is organised by the GCC, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, Kuwait National Petroleum Company, KFAS and Kuwait University will end on March 9.

Kuwait chooses Ferranti International simulator

FERRANTI International has been awarded the contract by Short Brothers to provide two cockpit mock-ups, two cockpit procedure trainers and one full mission flight simulator for the Tucano aircraft which they are supplying to the Kuwait Air Force.

The five simulators and cockpit mock-ups for Kuwait will be built by Ferranti Computer Systems, Training Systems Division at its Stockport facility.

The simulators will be used as an integral part of the basic flying training syllabus. The cockpit mock-ups will be used to

familiarise students with the layout and basic functions of the cockpit instruments and controls.

The procedure trainers will then be used to practice basic switching and emergency procedures, while in the full mission flight simulator students will be able to learn and practice all aspects of flying and operating the aircraft.

The flight simulator will include a four axis motion platform and a three channel wide-angle visual system which will provide realistic pilot cues and an easy transition to real aircraft.

Kuwait educational conference to commence March 11

KUWAIT, March 6, (KUNA): Board member of Kuwaiti Teachers Society Ali Al Zink said today that the forthcoming 9th Educational Conference in Kuwait will examine ways of enhancing teachers' social status in the Arab world.

He said in a press conference today that the gathering, which will be held from March 11 until 15 at the society's headquarters in Dasma area, will deal with the role of teachers and students' respect for them.

Zink expressed pleasure that the conference, titled "The Teacher's Social Status in the Arab World," will be patronised by HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah.

He indicated that 50 delegates from abroad, representing unions and societies of teachers, universities, Arab Education Ministries and educational centres and organisations will attend the conference.

30 local figures, representing public societies, institutions, committees, unions as well as the state ministries, will also be present.

On the other hand, the 8th Educational Book Exhibition will be held at the sidelines of the gathering from March 11-16 at the society's headquarters, which will display educational books, publications and technical equipment to help teachers carry out their job.

Shaheen confers with Bulgarian deputy foreign minister

KUWAIT, March 6, (KUNA): Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Sulaiman Majed Al Shaheen met here today with Bulgarian deputy foreign minister who is carrying a message from Foreign Minister Petur Mladenov addressed to Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed.

An authoritative source at the Foreign Ministry told KUNA that talks between the two sides tackled bilateral relations and reviewed activities and the role of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) and its upcoming meeting, due to take place in Saudi Arabia at the foreign ministers level.

Subscribers will continue to pay telephone reconnection charges: Sharhan

THE Minister of Communications Abdullah Al Sharhan ruled out any intention to cancel reconnection charges of subscriber telephone lines.

He told a local daily that the telephone service would be connected to chalets within the coming few months and that the ministry was currently installing a new service system whereby data packages could be transmitted to terminals located in different subscriber locations.

He said that the payment of telephone bills at local banks was intended to facilitate this process and eliminate crowding at telephone exchanges.

The new "Packet Switch System" will be operational beginning next year and subscribers from the private sector will find the new system extremely useful in their different business lines, the official said.

He added that the ministry was currently conducting a technical study in co-operation with the Kuwait Institute for Scientific



Abdullah Al Sharhan Research (KISR) to establish a new subscriber service known as the "Integrated System Digital Network" whereby all existing computer terminals could be linked to the telephone network.

Sharhan also said that the ministry is conducting another study under the supervision of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) Secretariat aimed at finding solutions to pending telecommunica-

First unit scheduled for 1992: Rqobah

KD304 million contract signed for Subiya power station

KUWAIT, March 6, (KUNA): Minister of Electricity and Water Dr Homoud Al Rqobah signed here today with the Japanese Mitsubishi Company a contract for the construction of Subiya electricity station which will supply Kuwait with electricity in 1993.

The company was represented by its agent in Kuwait Mezher Al Gharabeh in addition to other managers.

Following the signing ceremony, Rqobah said the station comprises eight turbo and steam units with a capacity of 300 megawatt per unit and with a total capacity of 2400 megawatt.

Schedule

In a press conference, the minister said the first unit in the station is scheduled to be operated in the second half of 1992 and other units will be operated every four months.

The minister also said that the KD304 million contract was signed following technical and financial consultations.

Rqobah said the station will supply Subiya City with electricity in addition to providing different parts of the country to

meet development needs in Kuwait till the year 2000.

He added the ministry is keen on preventing power failure during the summer and said no power cuts have occurred during the previous seven summer seasons.

The power failure that took place in Kuwait last December was the result of a human error, he explained.

On his forthcoming visit to Iraq, the minister said the visit is launched to boost co-operation between Kuwait and Iraq which are linked by strong fraternal and neighbourly relations.

He said the visit also aims at discussing supplying Kuwait with water from Shatt Al Arab waterway for drinking and irrigation purposes.

Project He said that enthusiasm of the Iraqis for the project is no less than that of the Kuwaitis and disclosed that the project is expected to be implemented within four years and the upcoming talks would try to reduce this period.

The minister emphasised that Kuwait-Iraqi relations are strong and the Shatt Al Arab



Homoud Al Rqobah signing the contract project is not linked with a proposed plan to supply Iraq with electricity by Kuwait.

Unprofessional cleaning firms lower standards: report

ONE of Kuwait's most important public utilities has been greatly damaged by unprofessional cleaning companies, according to a local daily. Such companies, which employ poorly-paid imported labourers, have caused a decline in the country's cleanliness levels, the paper said.

According to concerned officials, the very strong competition among local cleaning companies forces them to push wages down so that they can win tenders by offering cheaper rates than other companies, ignoring the fact that low wage rates affect the workers' productivity levels which in turn leads to a decline in cleanliness levels.

Labourers working for such companies say they are usually paid not more than KD25 per month, and that the conditions of their contracts are often not fulfilled. The work may appear all right from the outside, but not from the inside, one labourer said.

Some highly-reputed cleaning companies affirm that there are other companies which only masquerade as cleaning companies, when their real aim is to

exploit manpower in order to get commissions from agents in manpower importation. Such companies conduct regular exchanges of labourers so they can obtain a commission each time they bring in new labourers.

Co-partner at one cleaning company said many companies delay the payment of labourers' salaries. Many workers imported from Asian countries are exploited because of their ignorance as to the actual wage standards here. They come following misleading promises, and discover that the salaries paid to them are far less than expected.

Officials say that most of this labour exploitation comes from companies awarded low-priced tenders. Such companies are harming the public welfare at the same time, one official said.

Decline Other sources added that the decline in cleanliness levels was not the only harm done by these companies, but that they have caused even bigger problems as well such as the recent labour strike at Sabah Hospital when a company did not pay workers' salaries.

Some ministries have cancelled cleaning contracts with companies who won them through unfair competition, according to some officials, because most of these companies are not professionally oriented to do their job well.

Bad effect

The general director of Tanziqa cleaning company, Mustafa Elayan, said that the lowest-price tender policy has had a bad effect on the market. Great harm is done by the companies offering the best deals, he said. The forcible entry of unprofessional companies into the cleaning market has caused an increase in competition, he added. However, he said, government authorities are directing their efforts towards setting down guidelines and qualification conditions for cleaning companies, which has forced many small, unprofessional firms to cease entering tenders with bigger, established companies.

Elayan said that most ministries now stay away from open tenders and prefer well-established companies instead of looking for cheaper rates.

Iraq plans linking Arab countries via rail

IRAQ is currently making contacts with official authorities in Kuwait, Jordan and Turkey to discuss the possibility of extending the Iraqi railways to these countries, Director-General of the Transportation and Communication Projects Establishment, Azhar Al Qaisi, announced yesterday.

The Iraqi official said that studies and negotiations are continuing with these countries to ensure the installation of rail links with unified technical standards.

The official gave no further details, but added that there are plans to prepare studies and designs for linking Iraq by rail with neighbouring Arab countries.

This announcement comes a short time after public plans were made in Iraq to establish a huge railway network to link Iraqi cities at a cost of three billion Iraqi dinars. The plans include construction of a ring of rail lines around Baghdad City and new rail lines linking Baghdad with Basrah.

Fresh water consumption in Kuwait considerably increased

FRESH water consumption in Kuwait has increased from 1.8 million imperial gallons per day in 1957 to 105.4 million imperial gallons in 1986, a study prepared by Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) disclosed.

With regard to brackish water, the study said that consumption had increased to 36.6 million imperial gallons per day in 1986 compared to 1.4 million imperial gallons in 1957.

The study called for new meth-

odologies to exploit available water resources.

In 1979, KISR in co-operation with the Ministry of Electricity and Water concluded an agreement with a West German firm for processing water desalination through reverse osmosis. Accordingly, an experimental station was built in Doha in 1984. The operating efficiency of the reverse osmosis system proved a significant success, the report added.

5 Malaysian students sponsored by Dubai bank

KUALA LUMPUR, March 6, (KUNA): Five Malaysian students will soon be sent to Dubai to further their medical studies under the sponsorship of Dubai Islamic Bank.

Malaysian Minister in charge of Islamic Affairs in the Prime Minister's Department Dr Yusoff Noor said here today the offer of scholarship was made by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Finance Minister, Ahmed Kamal Al Tayer and governor of the bank Said Lutah during his visit to Dubai last week.

Dr Yusoff B. Palalaywim was grateful to the UAE in particular and to the bank for the

offer, adding "we will make the best of it."

He explained that the bank had agreed to finance the education of several Malaysian students from the primary to the university levels to study in the UAE.

He added priority would be given to orphans and Muslim converts to secure the bank offer.

Traffic accidents

A MAN died and eight other people were injured in the course of 11 traffic accidents which took place in Kuwait yesterday. The man, a Pakistani driver, Mohammed A, died when his car overturned in Sulaibiya.

BAHRAIN DIGEST

Bahraini lawyer calls for establishment of joint international law firms

AL-LEADING Bahraini lawyer has proposed the establishment of joint law firms involving overseas and Bahraini lawyers to enable the legal profession to serve the country efficiently.

Addressing the opening session of the International Bar Association Second Arab Regional Conference, yesterday, Dr Hassan Al Radhi, president of the Bahrain Bar Society, said the legal profession in Bahrain can be further enhanced by encouraging foreign lawyers to work in close association and co-operation with their Bahraini counterparts, particularly in the fields of commercial and banking laws.

Liberal

He said Bahrain's judiciary system showed a liberal approach ten years ago by granting special permission to foreign lawyers to work in the island under certain conditions and obligations.

So far foreigners have not been allowed to handle national cases in view of their lack of the Arabic language. International lawyers are also not fully knowledgeable of the country's national laws and judicial precedents.

Radhi proposed a legislation that would enable overseas and Bahraini lawyers to work together under one joint institution to facilitate legal representation of prospective clients.

Combined knowledge

"Bahrain has an international outlook. A foreign lawyer can play an important role by getting involved in our judiciary system. A client may be better served and a particular case can be easily solved with the combined knowledge and skills of both local and foreign lawyers," stressed Radhi.

He also suggested that lawyers of both parties in such a joint firm should learn each other's language in order to facilitate and enrich their work.

Leading Bahraini lawyer further added that in view of Bahrain's growing reputation as a financial centre in the region in general and offshore banking in particular, local and international lawyers could work together dealing with commercial and banking laws.

Organisation

Speaking on the "Organisation of law firms in the Western World," Edwin Godfrey, chairman of the opening session, said large multi-national law companies, comprise several hundred lawyers in each firm, in America and Western Europe in particular suffer from difficulties arising from organisational problems, recruitment insurance covers and corporate-like structure.

"Big firms increasingly suffer mainly because they are run like a commercial company," said Godfrey, a lawyer representing a major British law firm Simmons and Simmons.

Trends

Peter Finlay, representing an American firm White and Case, highlighted the sensitive issue of fees charged by lawyers in general world-wide. According to him the trend of payment is moving away increasingly from the traditional "fixed lump sum" to hourly basis or even monthly basis, such as in Turkey.

He added that the increasing use of computers to solve cases alleviates some of this problem and helps to a certain extent in billing "fair charges" lawyers and law firms.

He called for a common system to be adopted everywhere that would "educate" the client and their lawyers on arrangement of fair fees for the mutual benefit and satisfaction of all concerned.

Service

The role of the small law firm was discussed in comparison to the big multi-national firms as being of great significance in terms of low overheads and personalised quality service. However, the session agreed, regardless of the size of the firm, the objective of the legal profession can be said to be fulfilled as long as a lawyer is knowledgeable and skillful and serves to the client's satisfaction.

Iraqi lawyer, K. Lami, spoke on the role of advocates in the Arab world and called for Arab lawyers to be able to work in any Arab state in the same capacity as the national counterpart without restrictions. He said that such a move would help to unify the Arab judicial system for the common interests of clients in the region.

The 3-day conference, which opened Sunday at the Sheraton Hotel, has attracted more than 200 distinguished Arab and international delegates, including about 80 Bahraini lawyers. It has been organised under the patronage of the Prime Minister, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Sulman Al Khalifa in conjunction with the Bahrain Bar Association and the Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs. The conference ends on Tuesday.

Two year jail term for Irish kidnappers

ABU DHABI, March 6, (Reuters): Two Irishmen caught during a bungled bid to snatch a tug-of-war child to Ireland from her father's home in the United Arab Emirates have each been jailed for two years.

Prosecutor Mohamed Al Iraqi told Reuters today that a court in Khor Fakkan in the northern UAE jailed Gerard Flynn, 25, and Dennis Denehey, 28, and fined them 12,000 dirhams (\$3,200) each.

Caught The two told the court they were paid \$2,000 by five-year-old Nadine Samir's mother Anne McManus to kidnap the child and take her to Ireland.

But they were caught by UAE police after tying up Nadine's father, Samir Naser, and his new Filipina wife, and snatching the girl from their home.

The men's sentences are backdated to September. They can appeal against the decision within 15 days at a higher court, Iraqi told Reuters by telephone.

McManus, who divorced Naser in 1987, was tried in absentia for complicity in the kidnap attempt and has been barred from entering the UAE, the prosecutor said.

Conversation At last month's hearing, Flynn told the court they decided to get Nadine when McManus let them hear a taped telephone conversation in which, Flynn said, Naser had told the mother he would rather see Nadine dead than send her to Ireland.

The fine money is to be split between Nadine and her step-mother, Iraqi said.

Don't switch to summer wear yet: weatherman

AN official at the Meteorological Department advised the public not to be in a hurry to get rid of winter clothes.

Khaled Al Shuaibi, a weather forecaster stressed that there is still every possibility for weather fluctuations during the coming days of March. Such changes, he added, may result in adverse effects on those who change to light clothes early.

The most risky time during

this month is at night when occasionally temperatures may drop sharply. The best time to change from winter to summer clothes is the end of March.

Statistically, the weather during the month of March from 1981 to 1988 has been almost similar and maximum temperatures ranged from 25.6-27 degrees Celsius, while the minimum ranged between 13-13.3 degrees, Shuaibi said.

Nasser attends Labour Conference in Rabat

RABAT, March 6, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed Al Sabah arrived here today to attend the meetings of the 17th Arab Labour Conference.

The weeklong conference which opens tonight will be

attended by Arab ministers of labour.

Sheikh Nasser will address the participating members on behalf of the Kuwaiti delegation.

Discussions during the meetings will centre on ways of making the transfer of Arab labourers easier between Arab countries.

KUWAIT UNIVERSITY

Office of Vice Rector for Community Service and Information

INVITATION

It is pleasure to invite you to a lecture which will be presented by:

Professor Danial Pipes,

Director of the Foreign Policy Research Institute, Pennsylvania State, U.S.A

Entitled: "American Foreign Policy in the Gulf."

AT 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, 8th March, 1989, in Room No. 112 at the Faculty of Commerce, Economics and Political Sciences, in Adallah.

Gulf states approve plans for folkloric heritage projects

THE board of directors of the Folkloric Heritage Centre of the Arabian Gulf states ended its sixth meeting Sunday under the chairmanship of the Qatari Information Minister Dr Issa Al Kuwaiti.

Discussions during its one day meeting, centred on last year's achievements and plans for this year. The board agreed to carry out a number of projects related to traditional folklore, customs and traditional heritage in the Arabian Gulf states.

Bibliographies

The board also approved projects on popular medicine (herbal) treatment of mothers and children, the agricultural calendar, productive professions for women in the Gulf and a project for collecting children songs in the Arabian Gulf. The

board also agreed to carry out several projects on compiling bibliographies on folk heritage in the centre's member states.

In his report to the board, director-general of the centre, Abdul Rahman Al Manasei said that the centre completed 90 per cent of projects planned last year. He appreciated the co-operation rendered by the information, cultural, arts and social departments in the member states.

Information bank

The centre held specialised training courses for university graduates and researchers, established a bank of information and is keen on using modern techniques to assist in its programmes, the official said.

The six Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) member states and Iraq are the seven member countries in the centre.

كندا من لا حظ

A meeting point for English ladies

CONTACT, an information group and meeting point for English ladies, start their 1989 season next week.

The group was formed by three English ladies in 1984. Some of the founder members have since left Kuwait but the others continue the activities of the club.

The group provides all information needed by expatriate housewives when they first arrive in Kuwait. For example, where to buy household items, how to get to the clinics and hospitals, the various societies

and organisations open to them in the area of their residence and generally giving them information on diverse matters.

Newcomers find themselves isolated, said Contact's founder-member Pene Matheson. "The husbands meet colleagues at work but the ladies often find themselves in apartments or villas without contact with people of similar interests," she said.

Contact's objective is to provide a "meeting point" for English ladies.

The group meets every two months and newcomers are given an opportunity to meet long-staying residents. At such meetings, ladies are encouraged to set up their own activities such as craft mornings, coffee mornings or other sporting and social events.

The next meeting of contact will be held at the Messilah Beach Hotel (please note the change of venue) on March 11. Newcomers and old-timers are welcome.

For details call 5388105, 4874513.

Anuradha's love for Indian dance

AN Indian dancer living in Canada will give a Bharata Nattam recital in Kuwait this week.

Anuradha Naimpally, was so impressed by Indian classical art that she went to Bombay to study dance in the 1970s, earning a Master of Fine Arts in Dance.

In 1982, she made her debut in Bombay, packed her bags and went back to Canada to promote Indian culture abroad. Now she teaches dances to children in Canada and travels to neighbouring US to perform there. In 1985 she was invited to perform during the Festival of India in New York.



Anuradha

Anuradha's Kuwait recital is on Thursday at 7.30 pm at the Indian embassy hall.

'Madwoman of Chailot' is coming to Kuwait

'THE Madwoman of Chailot', ACT's second production this season, opens at the Mousetrap on March 27 for a four-night run.

The play, written by French playwright Jean Giraudoux (translated into English by Maurice Valency) has been described as "a kind of poetic and comic fable set in the twilight zone of the not-quite-true."

Set in the Paris of the late 1940s, the play concerns a group of unscrupulous businessmen who plan to destroy Paris to further their greedy ends. Learning of their plan, the Madwoman of Chailot leads an odd assortment of

vagabonds and fellow "mad-women" in battle against them. "It is the war of the individual against big business, a struggle as relevant today as it was 40 years ago," said an ACT spokesperson.

The plan, directed by George Plautz, incorporates music, dance and pantomime and has a strong cast. It has been produced by Mohamed Abueljebain.

There will be a special opening night performance on March 27. Other performances are on March 28, 29 and 30 at 8 pm. For reservations call 573-1782, anytime (answerphone) or 575-3911 (5-7 pm).

Focus on BBC

War of the Worlds

IN 1938, a celebrated radio dramatisation of The War of the Worlds caused panic in the United States. To this day, the story remains exciting and thought-provoking.

H.G. Wells' classic science-fiction novel, abridged by John Soctney, will be broadcast by BBC World Service, until March 13.

The year is 1902 and invaders from the planet Mars have landed in the peaceful English countryside. The first reaction of the local people is curiosity, but soon curiosity turns to fear and fear to panic as the Martians go on the rampage.



Simon Ward

BBC's Simon Ward reads the story on the World Service broadcasts daily at 0430, 0815 and 1615 (all times GMT).

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.00 Holy Quran
9.25 Cartoon Serial
10.00 Al Jazir Min Hanan: Arabic serial, starring Abdul Rahman Al Rashi, Rabee'a Shihab, Shafiqah Tall
11.00 Baqaya Wajoo: Arabic serial, starring Ibrahim Sallal, Haifa Adel, Ayesha Ibrahim, Khalifa Omar
12.00 Studio Angham: local variety show, presented by Mohammad Mutairi
1.00 News Summary
1.05 World News via Satellite/ Closedown

EVENING

4.00 Holy Quran
4.15 World News via Satellite
4.45 Nelly's: cartoon serial
5.25 Tum Tek and Children
5.30 We and Our Friends
5.45 Ibn Attiya: historical serial starring Majed Afroun, Shafiq Hassan, Marcel Marina and cartoons will also be shown.
6.30 Variety Show
7.00 News Summary



Edward Woodward plays the

Equaliser, 10.30 pm, KTV 2.

7.15 You and Your Health
7.50 Likulli Sawal Wa Jawab: Questions and Answers
8.30 Good Evening
9.00 News in Arabic
9.50 Loolu wa Asdaaf: Arabic serial
10.50 Aghniyat Fi Al Tamaniyat: features Mohammad Salman and Walid Tawfiq
12.00 News Summary
12.05 World News via Satellite/ Holy Quran/ Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Novelties: cartoon serial

6.30 Break Point
7.00 A Finite World: "Global Population: Problems and Solutions." A field study on population growth: economic and social implications
8.00 News in English
8.40 A Year in the Life: Sam's wife is pregnant and one of the sisters plans a birthday celebration. Starring: Richard Kiley
9.40 The Hit Squad: "Catch it before it catches you" is the theme of this practical jokes series
10.10 Bustin' Loose: "Words of Wisdom." Sunny and the kids dream of getting rich. Comedy
10.30 The Equaliser: "Always A Lady." Starring: Edward Woodward
11.30 News Summary/ followed by Magazine D'Actualite/ Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Watan Pharmacy
Jawharat Khaleej Bldg., Fahad Al Salem St.
Al Mutawa Pharmacy
Awkaf Bldg., Hilali St.
Hawalli and Nigra
Al Najat Pharmacy
Opp. Atba'a Complex, Hawalli
Salamiya and Rumailhiya
Al Maidan Pharmacy
Mishari Al Khalid Bldg., Baghdad St.
Fahsheel and Ahmadi
Al Sheba Pharmacy
F'heel
Jleeb Al Shiyoohk
Palestine Pharmacy
Main St.
Jahra
Al Noor Pharmacy
Abdul Aziz Nasrullah Bldg., Matafi St.

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Bustaan Al Damm (Arabic)
Starring: Adel Adham, Ameera, Ilham Shabin
A' Salamiya
People's Theatre performance
Al Hamra
Al Khatem (Arabic)
Starring: Nelli, Samir Sabri, Jalal Sharqawi
Drive-In
Mo'alimah Samah (Arabic)
Starring: Madiha Kamel, Ezzat Alaili, Muna Abdul Ghani
Al Firdous
Hindi Film
Fahsheel Open-Air
Fakira (Hindi)
Al Fahsheel
Lucas

Al Jahra
Insaaf (Bengali)
Granada
Aranyakam (Malayalam)
Sulaibikhat
Land of Doom
Al Jleeb
Raj Nandini (Bengali)
Ahmadi Drive-In
Gharum Al Afa'ai (Arabic)

PRAYERS

Fajr	4.47 am
Zuhr	11.59
Asr	3.21 pm
Maghreb	5.52
Isha	7.08

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Ghadir Gallery

UNTIL March 19: Recent paintings by British water colour artist Patricia Mills will be shown at the Ghadir Gallery, Salhiya Complex, mezzanine, Gate 5, daily from 9 am to 12 noon and 4 to 8.30 pm.

Sultan Gallery

AN exhibition of paintings by Bangladeshi artist Mounirul Islam is open at the gallery, Thunayan Al Ghanim Bldg., Al Soor St., daily except Friday from 9 am to 12 noon and 5 to 8 pm.

MUSIC

Concert

MARCH 14: Mouchira Issa gives her first performance of the year at the Kuwait Sheraton Hotel, New Grand Ballroom, at 8 pm. For reservations contact the hotel's banquet office.

Beat Concert

MARCH 31: A beat concert featuring the Perfect Strangers will be held from 10 am at the Sharq Co-operative Hall. For details call Anthony D'Souza or Arjun Gehi. Tel: 2631826 or 2663693.

EXHIBITION

Higher Education in Britain

MARCH 11-15: The British Council presents an exhibition on British Higher Education. It will feature information on all aspects of higher education in Britain. A group of senior staff from Scottish universities will

attend the exhibition. For details contact Education Advisor Kate Harries. Tel: 2520067.

Modern Kuwait

UNTIL March 8: The Kuwait University's Art and Culture Department is holding a photographic exhibition on "Modern Kuwait" at the College of Commerce, Adeliya.

SOCIAL

Gala Dinner

MARCH 9: The Great Ormond Street Hospital Gala Dinner will be held at 8 pm. For details call 4831339; 5393151.

British Tea Party

MARCH 10: The British Tea Party/animal fun day will be held at the Messilah Beach Hotel from midday with fun stalls, animal-painting competition, children's super-star contest, soccer and basketball, Leo's magic and other events. For details phone 5624111 ext. 751/739.

Masquerade Ball

MARCH 10: 6 pm. KAPILKU Masquerade Ball at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Andalus Club. Awards for best costume, best mask, best couple. Parlor games and raffle contest are added attractions. Buffet dinner. Entrance: KD. 5.

Contact

MARCH 11: The next meeting of the ladies information group will be held at 10 am at the Messilah Beach Hotel. Please note change of venue. For details call 3720197; 4874513; 5388105.

Hair Science Class

MARCH 17: A one-day hair science class will be held at

Holiday Inn Hotel, 2 to 6 pm. Certificate of attendance will be given. Entrance free for all KAPILKU members. For details call Ojie Olor — 5634200.

SPORTS

Keep-fit

SATURDAYS (5-6 pm) aerobics for ladies; (6-7 pm) mixed aerobics; instructor Tuovi Pakkasalo.

Sundays (5.30 pm): squash handicap tournament.

Mondays (5.30 pm): Separate keep-fit classes for men and women. Instructors Christine and Steve Hill incorporate aerobics and weight training in the programme.

Fun Run

MARCH 17: 30 km fun run for teams of at Messilah Beach Hotel. Commences at 10 am. Registration is strictly limited. For details call Hugh McAree — 5326368 or Jon Evans — 5339867.

Danish Darts Tournament

MARCH 17: Daniela invites all Danes to take part in a darts tournament. It will be held 7.30 am at Gazelle Club. Please register before March 8. Tel: Annette — 3723413; Ingrid — 3715637.

Aerobic/Yoga/Swimming

AT Kuwait International Hotel: Aerobics for ladies from 6 to 7 pm every Saturday, Monday and Wednesday.

Yoga every Sunday and Tuesday from 8 pm to 9 pm and on Friday from 10.30 am to 11.30 am.

Swimming starts March 6-22, Saturdays, Mondays, Wednesdays. For details contact the hotel's recreation manager Colin Hall.

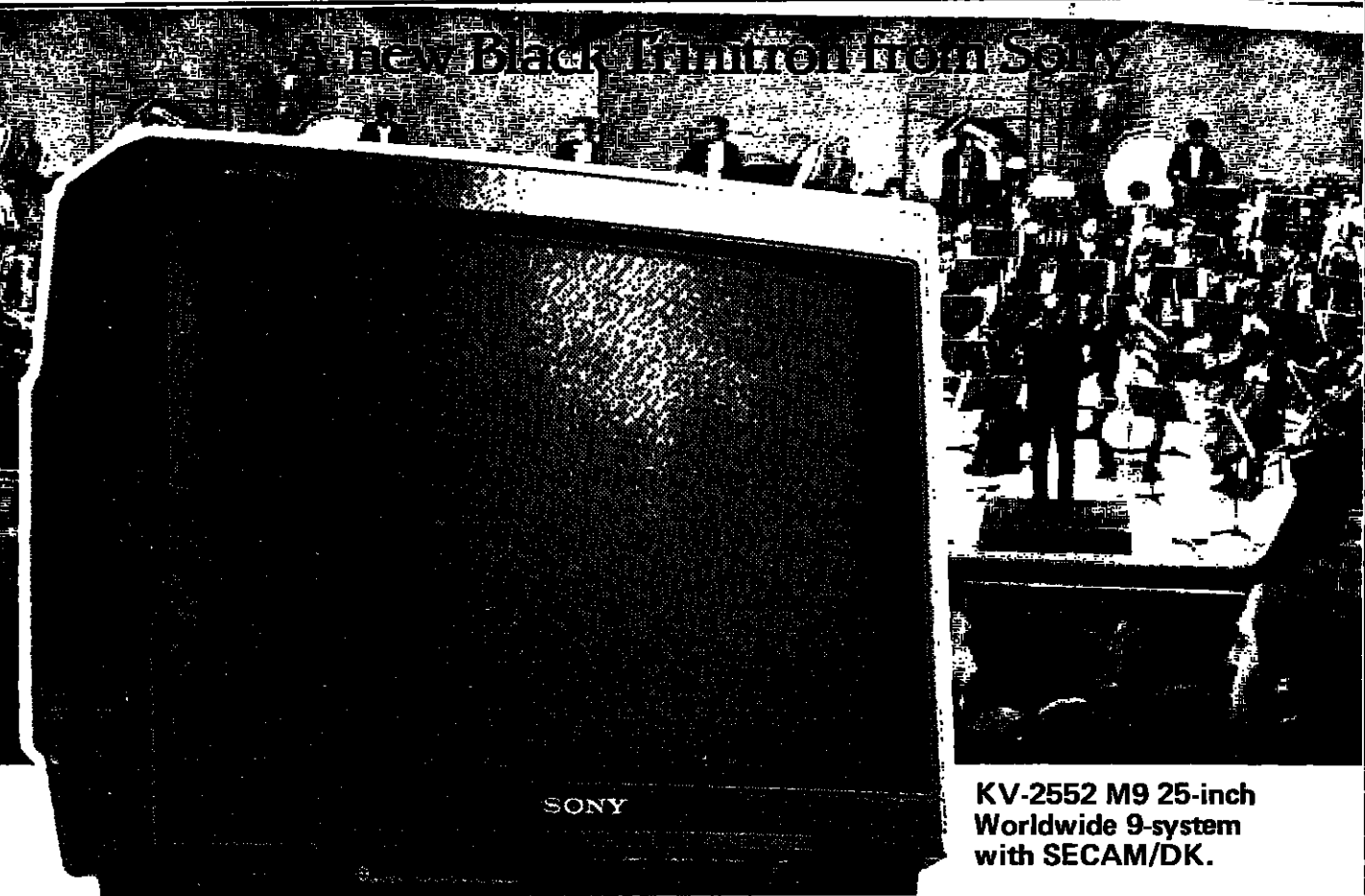
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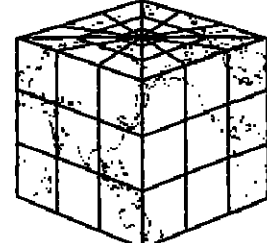
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MADE 'IN' SONY
WORLDWIDE EXCELLENCE

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

OUR sweetest songs are those which tell of saddest thoughts — Percy Bysshe Shelley, English poet (1792-1822).

Soviet Jews struggle in Israel

By Sharon Waxman

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, (Reuters): The crayon-scribbled walls and mildew smell of Ina Brohena's apartment in a government "absorption centre" testify to the woes of Soviet Jews trying to make a new life in Israel. Israel campaigned for a decade to get the Soviet Union to open its gates for the departure of Jewish emigrants. But many who have come say they suffer from poverty, indifference and bureaucracy in their new homeland.

Prominent Soviet emigres, many of whom spent years in prison demanding the right for Jews to leave, say it is not surprising that fewer than 10 per cent of the Jews now leaving the Soviet Union choose to come to Israel.

Ina Brohena, 37, a Moscow-born mother of three, hung blankets over her window frames when the pines fell out of her poorly-built Jerusalem apartment last autumn.

"I have been here four years. I can tell you now that I am not sure we should have come," she says.

Crusade

Israel's most famous Russian immigrant former diplomat Nathan Sharansky, has launched a personal crusade to draw attention to the critical situation.

"We have a unique historic opportunity to bring hundreds of thousands of Jews to this country," he told a group of American rabbis recently. "We have to improve...the system of absorption."

Critics like Sharansky say Israel is only starting to wake up to the severe social ills created by lack of housing, jobs and counselling for immigrants.

With some 200 Russian Jews arriving monthly and the number leaving the Soviet Union on the rise, the problems are likely to worsen.

They are given added urgency by 7,000 Russian Jews in a transfer camp outside Rome who await visas to the United States. Israel is trying to persuade them to "come home" but critics say the government has nowhere to put them.

"Our absorption capacity is at the absolute minimum. I don't see how any people will be absorbed at all," said Yuri Stern, spokesman for the Soviet Jewish Zionist Forum. "And it gets worse."

Protests over The Satanic Verses

Hollywood wary of testing film potential

By Aly Sujo

NEW YORK, (Reuters): Muslim protests and Iranian threats have helped turn "The Satanic Verses" into a Western bestseller — but Hollywood is wary of testing the novel's box office potential.

On Friday Iranian President Ali Khamenei added death threats against anyone who dared film the novel in an order for the killing of author Salman Rushdie.

"Who would dare?" said Hollywood agent Russell Galen. "The movie industry is easily cowed. You don't look at the movies to find that kind of courage."

Rushdie has been in hiding and under police protection since Iranian clerics put a multi-million-dollar price on his head last month for blaspheming Islam in the novel.

His agent Andrew Wylie, who secured the Indian-born British author a reported \$800,000 for English-language publishing rights to "The Satanic Verses," told Reuters on Friday that the film rights were still available.

He refused comment on whether the movie industry was shunning the book.

Threats

The same day, the Iranian News Agency IRNA quoted Khamenei as telling tens of thousands at Tehran's university campus:

"From now on, anyone who wants to write these things, or to make a film out of it, will wait for death threats from Muslims who have accepted the Imam's 'fatwa' (religious decree) and want to carry it out."

In Muslim countries at least 20 people have died in anti-Rushdie protests.

In the West the novel, which

from month to month."

Uri Gordon, in charge of immigration and absorption at the quasi-governmental Jewish agency, told Reuters: "There is no question. Absorption is a disaster."

"I will make a public fight about this...I must make a change in my society. My feeling is we have to make a second Zionist revolution in our society."

Like Gordon, many Israelis ask how the state that since 1948 has successfully taken in nearly two million Jews from around the world is suddenly unable to absorb Soviet Jews who are Zionist, educated and eager to work.

But the immigrant woes have received little attention from a government concentrating on fighting the 14-month-long Palestinian uprising and reducing the state's role in a stagnant economy.

Closed

The Housing Ministry has closed absorption centres, where immigrants ostensibly live rent-free for their first six months.

Those still open are full of immigrants who came three and four years ago. New immigrants — who know nothing about the Israeli housing market — are given money by the government to rent their own apartments.

Though most immigrants have job skills and qualifications, rising unemployment makes it hard to find a job.

Dependent on the government, they spend hours winding their way through Israel's baffling bureaucracy, which often seems to work only by "protektzia," Israeli-style favouritism.

Perhaps worst of all, immigrants who may have spent years in Soviet labour camps dreaming of Zion say they find the average Israeli does not know or care about them.

Fund-raising

"The people here don't know Russia, the life, the propaganda we face there," says Brohena. "They don't understand that we are people of a different culture — that we also had television, even beds to sleep on."

The Jewish Agency and Ministry of Absorption have begun to address some of the problems. The agency plans a fund-raising drive to raise \$100 million in the United States for Soviet immigrants in Israel.

Rushdie describes as a surrealistic depiction of the struggle between good and evil, is selling fast and its publishers said Sunday's New York Times would put it in second place in its US bestseller list.

David Reiff, who edits the work of Philip Roth, Mario Vargas Llosa and Joseph Brodsky, said the book was intensely cinematic but it could not expect Hollywood's "usual treatment".

"Booksellers have been less than brave in terms of stocking the book. But movie people make the booksellers look like heroes," he said.

"I think no one will ever make the movie," said Galen, of the Scott Meredith Literary Agency which sold the rights for Arthur C. Clarke's "2001 — A Space Odyssey" to Hollywood.

"They have a history of shying away from subjects much less controversial."

Hollywood may have in mind the 1977 screening of a desert epic, "Mohammad, Messenger of God," starring Anthony Quinn.

In Washington, a group of Hanafi Muslims armed with guns and machetes took dozens of hostages, killed a radio reporter and wounded several people.

The Muslims wanted the film withdrawn. Screenings were halted temporarily and it disappeared from circulation.

Adaptation

One independent producer, asked to comment on "The Satanic Verses" replied with a statement that he was "in no way contemplating either an adaptation of the book nor a film version of the events surrounding its publication."

An aide asked that the producer should not be named "because he is in Europe and fears for the lives of his children."

No one wants to foot the bill

Unprecedented demands to deploy UN peacekeepers

By Ted Morello

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y.: The United Nations is being hammered by unprecedented demands to deploy new peacekeeping operations at a time when it can't pay for the old ones.

"Everyone praises the UN peacekeeping forces, but when I present the bill there is no response," Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said on Jan 9 in Oslo. Last year's Nobel peace prize was awarded to the UN peacekeepers.

By the most recent official reckoning, the world organisation's member states owe almost \$360 million merely for the three existing missions that are financed by mandatory assessments: those on the Golan Heights, in southern Lebanon and on the Iran-Iraq ceasefire front. Of that amount, the Soviet Union owes \$172 million and the United States \$94 million.

An additional \$168 million is owed to governments that have contributed troops to such operations as the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), which were left to voluntary contributions for funding.

Despite the unpaid bills, the vanguard of the newly authorised, 70-man UN Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM) arrived on Jan 3. They will monitor the withdrawal of 50,000 Cuban troops within a 27-month period. Cuban troops began heading home on Jan 10.

Cost

And within the next few weeks, another new operation begins. It is aimed at steering Namibia toward independence from South Africa under the Dec 22 agreement signed by South Africa, Angola, and Cuba. The UN Secretariat originally estimated that the mission, the UN Transition Assistance Group, would require 7,500 blue-helmeted peacekeepers plus more than 1,000 civilians and would cost \$700 million.

The next UN peace mission is likely to be deployed in Western Sahara, the territory disputed in a 13-year war between Morocco and the rebel Polisario front.

Following talks between Polisario representatives and Morocco's King Hassan II recently, a UN envoy chosen to oversee a peace plan began his first tour of the region on Jan 10. Preliminary estimates put the requirements for monitoring a ceasefire and conducting a self-determination referendum close to those for the Namibia undertaking.

In Afghanistan, UN observers monitored the withdrawal of Soviet troops. In addition, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev proposed in his Dec 7 General Assembly speech that the UN deploy two new presences: a peacekeeping contingent to oversee the establishment of "a broad-based government" in Kabul and a sort of international Peace Corps "to assist in the revival of Afghanistan."

On the more distant horizon, the UN is expected to be called on to send a contingent to Kampuchea to monitor the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops and per-

haps to oversee a plebiscite.

Not all of the UN peacekeeping problems are financial. Political and ideological considerations inevitably cause friction over the selection of troop-contributing countries, deployment by nationality, and assigned duties. There have been rumblings, for instance, that a disproportionate number of UNAVEM's 10 contributing governments are communist (Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia), Arab (Algeria, Jordan), pro-Soviet (India), or all of the above (Congo).

Ultimately, however, most of the UN's peacekeeping problems stem from a lack of financial support. The point was made repeatedly by government and military officials interviewed recently in the four Nordic capitals.

They speak from long and sometimes bitter experience. Their troops have formed the nucleus of nearly every UN operation since the first one: the UN Truce Supervision Organization, created in 1948, origin-

ally to supervise the armistice in the first Arab-Israeli war.

The four — Denmark, Sweden, Finland, and Norway — are unique. Among the scores of countries providing peacekeepers, they are the only ones to maintain standby forces that train as an integrated, multinational contingent.

Transport

Each conducts specialized blue-beret training not only for its own but for troops of the three others Nordic nations. Norway focuses on transport and logistics. Sweden concentrates on staff officers. Finland trains military observers, and Denmark specializes in turning out military police.

Of the 10,000 UN peace troops currently on duty world-wide, one-third are estimated to be nationals of the four participating Nordic countries. (The fifth, Iceland, does not have an army.) Since 1948, when the UN was only three years old, they have supplied well over 100,000 men and women.

Ironically, the viking bloc is a principal victim of the UN inability to pay. For example, Col R.K. Jakobsen, chief of the Danish Defence Ministry's UN department, says the United Nations runs up a bill of \$10 million a year for Denmark's UNFICYP contingent alone and has fallen eight years behind in payments. Officials of the other three tell similar stories.

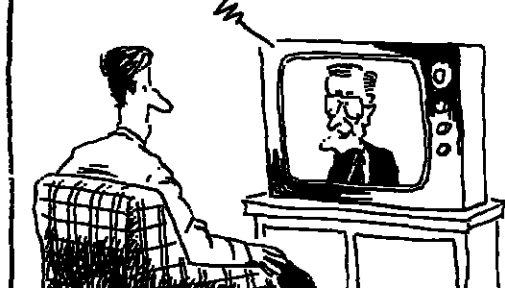
"If the UN can't meet its financial obligations (for peacekeeping), I don't know how it can maintain its credibility," Deputy Foreign Minister Helge Hernes of Norway said.

(In his Oslo speech, according to Reuters, Perez de Cuellar called for new ways of funding peacekeeping forces, such as a tax on arms exports.

The secretary-general said it was ironic that \$1.5 billion, the expected cost of peacekeeping operations this year, was almost exactly one per cent of what he said was the value of the world's official arms exports in 1987 — \$164 billion.)

The Christian Science Monitor.

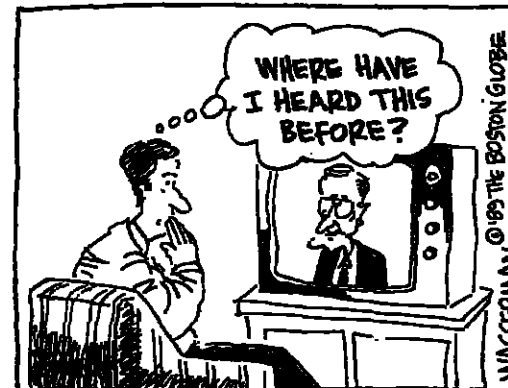
CUTTING TAXES ON CAPITAL GAINS WILL SPUR SAVINGS...



INCREASE INVESTMENT, STIMULATE GROWTH...



AND ACTUALLY ADD REVENUE TO REDUCE THE DEFICIT!



Unable to find adequate work and unwilling to return to their homelands

Illegal aliens in US pushed further underground

By Scott Armstrong

LOS ANGELES: Each morning Catalino Sazo goes looking for work — on a street corner here near downtown.

He is one of about 100 illegal aliens who show up at Olympic Boulevard and Mariposa Avenue in hopes of getting hired for the day by a construction boss, roofer, or other individual who drives by. Usually, however, only a few of the illegals get picked up.

"Sometimes I have to wait 15 days before I get work," says Sazo, a Guatemalan who four months ago came to the United States where he was told he could "have the good life."

Sazo is part of what many believe is a growing subclass of the poor in America. The group is made up of hundreds of thousands of newly arrived illegal aliens and those who weren't eligible to become residents under the amnesty provision of the new immigration law.

Unable to find adequate work and unwilling to return to their homelands, many are being pushed further underground, more destitute and vulnerable than ever to abuses by employers and landlords, according to immigrants' rights groups.

"There is rising concern about it," says Cecilia Munoz of the National Council of La Raza, a Hispanic advocacy group.

Others, however, dispute the extent of the problem.

When Congress enacted the Immigration Reform and Control Act in 1986, which for the first time made it illegal for employers to hire aliens other than those eligible for amnesty, federal lawmakers had hoped many of the undocumented aliens living in the US would return to native lands.

A few did, but the majority, by most accounts, have stayed here. Thousands more continue to slip across the nation's southern border each month, although federal immigration officials maintain that the volume has slowed since passage of the law.

In the past, even though many of these illegals lived in fear of deportation, they could usually find work. The new law, however, puts employers at the centre of enforcement. They are supposed to ask job applicants

for papers to prove they are authorized to work. Hiring illegals can bring a fine or even jail time.

Thus many illegals who are already employed are hanging onto their jobs, out of fear that a job switch will bring the request for papers. This, according to advocacy groups, makes the aliens more "indentured" than ever to sweatshop operators and unscrupulous bosses.

Substandard

Moreover, many others either can't find work or, if they do, it is often at substandard wages or conditions. To immigration law supporters, this was the intent: The job pool would dry up and illegals would go home. But immigrant advocates argue that aliens will stay here rather than risk deprivation in their own lands, and the result is another US stratum of poverty.

"We have added a new segment to the underclass," says Linda Wong of California Tomorrow, an advocacy group.

No one knows how many undocumented aliens remain in the US, though some immigration analysts put the number as high as 3.5 million. Nor is there much data on what exploitation might be going on.

What does exist is mainly anecdotal. In New York City, for instance, advocacy groups tell of undocumented aliens who are forced to work seven days a week for \$2.80 or less an hour, who are unable to pay rent, and who are increasingly the victims of crime. (Many don't report crimes for fear of being asked for papers.)

About half the calls coming into an employment hot line at the Centre for Immigrant Rights in New York are from undocumented aliens. Common complaints include not being paid for work done and having benefits taken away.

Hardship

"There is a growing number of people who, if they are employed, are employed in an underground economy, and the abuses related to that are growing," says Josh DeWind, director of Latin America and Caribbean Studies at Hunter College.

The signs of hardship are also subtle in Los Angeles, home of perhaps the largest concentration of illegal aliens nationwide. A growing number of undocumented people, unable to find work, are ending up on street

corners looking for day jobs, like Catalino Sazo. The crowds are big enough in some areas that merchants are complaining that the day labourers are a nuisance, and the Immigration and Naturalisation Service has been doing periodic sweeps. The Los Angeles City Council is considering a proposal to ban street-corner solicitation.

Shelters and social agencies report that a growing percentage of the homeless population in Los Angeles is Spanish-speaking, part of which they attribute to an increase in the number of illegals living on the street. The local office of the US Labour Department's wages and hours division says complaints of minimum-wage abuses against the poor are rising, including those among undocumented aliens.

"This kind of thing is lapsing toward what I would call the nightmarish," says Ned Sullivan, Los Angeles-area director of the department's wages and hours division.

Exploitation

Still, supporters of the new immigration law contend that the charges of exploitation by employers are overstated. They also argue that the pool of illegals in the country will eventually be taken care of: Over time, the immigration law will dramatically slow the volume of new illegals coming in. Then, as jobs dry up, others will either go home or be absorbed legally into the system.

"The vast majority of illegal aliens came here for work," says Patrick Burns of the Federation for American Immigration Reform. "Ultimately, if they don't find work, they will go home."

"The intent of the law," he adds, "was to stop illegal immigration and encourage illegals to leave. It wasn't to make it easy for them."

It isn't easy for Felix Portillo. He shows up at Olympic and Mariposa every morning, sometimes at 6 a.m. The recent arrival from Guatemala, in blue jeans and canvas tennis shoes, hasn't gotten a day job in six weeks.

"When I was in Guatemala, people were talking about the good life in America, making a lot of money," he says leaning on a car. "But when you're living here, you find it's different."

The Christian Science Monitor.

Soviet campaign fires passion over bread and butter issues

By John-Thor Dahlburg

MURMANSK, USSR, (AP): Soviet-style democracy went to work aboard the fishing vessel Kola Bay off South America when its 50 officers and sailors met during a "forum" to nominate a candidate for a new national assembly.

Slicing through 40-foot (12-metre) waves, the 18,000-ton refrigerated vessel covered 400 nautical miles before its crew could agree on who they thought should represent them in the halls of power in Moscow, first mate Konstantin S. Atroshnikov said.

The new Soviet democracy also pre-empted "King Kong" in the palace of culture of this port city 1,000 miles (1,600 kms) north of Moscow.

In the snow-coated Kirov Palace, where on other days the great ape had roared from the

screen, more than 700 delegates from city workplaces and neighbourhoods gathered to whittle down the list of candidates to be proposed to voters. It took them nine hours to pair the list of six names to three.

With passion and scepticism, a modicum of ballyhoo and a big dose of confusion, this city of 440,000 and the Soviet Union at large are experiencing their first nationwide election campaign where voters will be allowed a choice, instead of having a single candidate imposed by the Communist Party.

"I'm running because the law now gives me that right, and I want to state my positions," said one Murmansk candidate, Andrei A. Zolotkov, an engineer who has worked on atomic-powered icebreakers. "That's my only goal."

In the past, we used to gather in committee and say: How many women candidates do we need here, or how many workers there," said the chief of Murmansk's Communist Party apparatus, Vladimir P. Khachenko. "This time not a single candidate has been endorsed by the city (party) committee."

President Mikhail Gorbachev, who championed the multi-candidate elections, calls the exercise a "school of democracy." He says Soviet political life must be opened to greater citizen participation if his programme for "perestroika," or social and economic change, is to succeed.

Pressure

That's the theory. In practice, there are clear signs of pressure from the party in some sections of the country, like the conservative Ukraine, to have a party-backed candidate become the voter's sole option in the March 26 elections to the newly created Council of People's Deputies.

The electoral changes, approved in December by the Soviet parliament, also create what some Soviets call "filters" at several levels to block candidates who can't garner majority support on the panels empowered with doing the nominating.

One famous victim of the "filters" was Andrei Sakharov, the Nobel peace prize laureate, whose candidacy was not backed by the Academy of Sciences.

The choice of another fishing boat, never made it through a subsequent nominating meeting held by representatives of Sevriya, the enterprise that runs the Kola Bay and more than 70 other Murmansk-based fishing

vessels. The late February meeting at the Palace of Culture passed judgement on candidates proposed by the city's enterprises and neighbourhoods. As a result, voters in Murmansk territorial election district No. 224 will choose in March from among a doctor, the chief of a fishing trawler fleet, and the 37-year-old Zolotkov.

Housing

What's emerging in the fledgling campaigns is a pronounced accent on local issues. Among those are the lack of housing that's keeping 50,000 Murmansk residents waiting for better apartments, the rationing of sugar, sausage and other staples, the lack of polyclinics in new neighbourhoods and the fouling of the environment by industry in this once pristine region north of the Arctic Circle.

Zolotkov's nine-minute speech at the Kirov Palace never mentioned Gorbachev, but detailed the problems of his fellow city dwellers and had a distinct "let's send a message to Moscow" tone.

"When you're talking about people's lives, you must make demands," he declared.

According to Khachenko, there's little if any difference in the candidates' platforms: "What people want is a deputy with courage who will fight for what he believes in."

If Gorbachev's new electoral system is a school, Zolotkov is a budding star pupil. The lanky Murmansk native with grey-streaked black hair wears a baggy tie and light blue shirt, because allies advised him to.

However, the engineer drew the line at loosening his collar and tie while campaigning, as his would-be image makers wanted.

Rent

Before the Kirov Palace meeting, Zolotkov bought time on an electric sign that shines down on Murmansk's main square to get it to say: "Vote for Andrei Alekseyevich Zolotkov." He wanted to rent a sound track, but rented when told that the move might offend other candidates.

His character became a campaign issue when one participant in the Kirov Palace meeting asked him if he would have the courage to publicly oppose a decision by Gorbachev.

He answered: "Yes."

"I already have disagreements with the election law," Zolotkov says. "Why should a member of the (party) Central Committee have more than I do?" The Gorbachev-backed law gives the party the right to directly fill 100 of the assembly's 2,250 seats.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1573 — Peace of Constantinople ends war between Turkey and Venice.
- 1692 — Maximilian, elector of Bavaria, is installed as governor and captain-general of Spanish Netherlands.
- 1793 — France declares war on Spain, and Spanish forces invade Roussillon and Navarre.
- 1820 — Spain's King Ferdinand II is forced to restore the constitution of 1812 and end the inquisition.
- 1821 — Neapolitan rebels are crushed at Rieti by Austrians.
- 1876 — Egyptian forces are defeated at Gura by Ethiopians.
- 1935 — Restoration of Saar to Germany marks beginning of German expansion.
- 1936 — Germany violates Treaty of Versailles by occupying demilitarized zone in the Rhineland.
- 1941 — British troops invade Italian-occupied Abyssinia (Ethiopia) in World War II.
- 1945 — British 14th Army enters Mandalay in Burma in World War II.
- 1951 — Premier Ali Razmara of Iran is assassinated.
- 1956 — Unrest, fomented by Stalinist faction, breaks out in Soviet Georgia.
- 1968 — United States and Soviet Union pledge to protect all weaker nations from nuclear blackmail and aggression.
- 1977 — Saudi Arabia announces it will give \$1 billion in aid to black Africa.
- 1988 — British soldiers and police fatally shoot three Irish Republican Army guerrillas after they plant car bomb set to go off during military parade in British colony of Gibraltar.

مكتبة

'Hanoi Jane' — still a rebel

Jane Fonda talks about the women's movements, role models, activism, family life and producing and of course, the Vietnam war.

By Daniel B. Wood

SANTA MONICA, Calif.: With black sweater, black pants, black boots, and still that head-turning smile, Jane Fonda is talking about the "passages" of her life — about coping, changing, growing, and surviving.

Her office suite is adorned with the trappings of fame — Oscars and photos of herself as a Hollywood child, an actress/producer, and an exercise maven — which suggest she has done more coping than most.

Now at 51, at least one public opinion poll gives her a higher popularity rating than President Reagan.

In an interview here at Fonda Films she has no air of self-importance. She is interested in her interviewer as a father ("Your wife works, and you have a child? How do you cope?") and her photographer as a Vietnam veteran ("1972 — so you were there after the Tet offensive?").

Clarify Later, she will talk about the women's movement, role models, activism, family life, acting, and producing. But first, she faces the obligatory question about her conciliatory statements about Vietnam on the ABC-TV show "20/20" last year.

Interviewed by Barbara Walters in July, Fonda talked about her 1972 trip to Hanoi, when she climbed onto a North Vietnamese anti-aircraft gun to pose for photographs, and made a propaganda broadcast to US servicemen stationed in the Gulf of Tonkin.

"I would like to say something to men who were in Vietnam, whom I hurt, or whose pain I

caused to deepen because of things that I said or did," Fonda told Walters. "...I feel that I owe them an apology."

After all these years, Fonda still felt she was a lightning rod for frustration about the war. The Walters interview came at Fonda's request.

Today, here in Santa Monica, Fonda wishes to clarify a general misimpression held by many who did not watch the whole telecast, that she was reneging on her antiwar involvement.

"I did not, have not, and will not say that going to North Vietnam was a mistake," she says. "I have apologized only for some of the things that I did there, but I am proud that I went."

Posing on the anti-aircraft gun was wrong ("thoughtless and careless"), she says; publicly criticizing certain POWs she felt were used to glorify the war was wrong. But travelling to Hanoi to bring attention to secret bombings of dikes in North Vietnam was not wrong, she adds.

"I feel I tried to end the war, and in some small way my actions helped end the war," she says. "I know not everyone agrees... but I also got hundreds of letters from vets (after the Walters interview) that said, 'I'm disappointed that you felt you had to apologize. I hope that you are not backing down.'"

No one has been more amazed than Fonda that the whole controversy still brews. Last summer while she was in Waterbury, Conn. to make a film, a veteran's group had sold 6,000 "We're not Fonda's Hanoi Jane" bumper stickers and promised demonstrations that would rival the Tet offensive.



Jane Fonda wipes a tear at a memorial service for Dr Martin Luther King earlier this year.

Fonda, however, reversed a hostile situation after a four-hour meeting in the basement of a local church.

"They had their anti-Jane Fonda stickers and all the hate stuff all over them, and I told them what I was sorry for and what I wasn't," she says. The clarifications defused anger, she said, but she says she learned "two horrible things."

"They really believe... that, had it not been for the antiwar movement, we would've gone on to a military victory. And they believe they are the first American soldiers to lose a war for the US."

"I said, don't you understand that the men who sent you knew that the war could not be won? (Former Defence Secretary Robert) McNamara has admitted knowing in 1965 that the war could not be won."

"They couldn't hear me. For them, it was their fault," Fonda has continued in the spotlight, with the making of two recent movies and a third generation of million-dollar exercise videos. Too busy to be a full-time activist, she still uses her celebrity to spotlight issues close to home and heart: various California initiatives (1988), the Solidarity movement in Poland (1987), and the plight of Soviet Jewish refugees (1987).

Despite all her activity, Fonda takes the initiative to disabuse inquirers of any notions about superwomanhood.

"I'll tell you who the superwomen are, in my opinion," she says. "Those who raise a family, hold two jobs, and put themselves through college."

Niche If Fonda has any niche in the women's movement, it is in highlighting pay inequities and sexual harassment in the workplace — underlined by her movie Nine to Five.

Owning up to having her own housekeeper, partners in film production and exercise videodance, and "a woman who schedules my entire life to make it run smoothly," Jane Fonda says she feels it's important for her to keep her feet on the ground.

"The big problem for someone who is wealthy and famous and privileged is that they get too much on their high horse, get very separated from reality into some rarefied atmosphere (where) they are never forced to

look at their own behaviour. It frightens me very much."

That she has gotten her feet firmly planted is evident in the conviction and ease with which she spins out folk wisdom about the various facets of her career.

— On activism: "Patience. The big lesson is that things don't happen quickly. You know, when you are younger you think, 'Well, if I speak out and expose a fact, people will hear it and change, and things will get better.' But I see more and more, everyday, that change is frightening for people. The most recent elections show the status quo is comfortable for people."

Proud

— Aligning with causes: "Choose the issues and initiatives that will truly show the balance of power away from special-interest groups and tilt it toward communities, consumers, the disenfranchised. That's what I look for." California's Proposition 65 (a far-reaching toxic waste regulation initiative) and Proposition 103 (which lowered the state's car insurance rates) were two recent measures that Fonda supported, and that won on the November ballot.

— Choosing movie productions: "I'm really proud of the fact that most of the movies I've produced really have something to say... It's always been couched in a good yarn that's either wrapped up in sex and romance, like *Coming Home*, or humour, like *Nine to Five* or drama, like *China Syndrome*. There's always been a story you could relate to, whether or not you got the message."

She calls her new film, *Old Gringo*, due out next fall, a "strange epic, romance, drama, that is unlike anything I've ever done or seen."

Role models: "I like being one. It keeps me on my toes. It's been helpful for women in particular to have lived through with me my going out on a limb, my making mistakes, my surviving the mistakes and going on from there. I think, on a lot of levels, it's very helpful to people to show one doesn't have to give up. That you're not alone."

— Commitment: "I'm disturbed by the number of young women who believe you can have a kid and raise it without a father. A normal marriage is best. Tom told me when we had Troy that one of us should be home every night until he went to college. He's travelled more than any state legislator to live up to that."

Besides all the activities she is involved with, Fonda still cherishes her connection with the 13-year-old performing arts camp she established on her ranch in Santa Barbara.

Primarily for Californians, the enrollment is one-third inner-city youth on full scholarships, one-third on partial scholarships, and one-third privileged.

"The fact that this is everybody together — rich, poor, handicapped — makes it work. Everybody rises to the top," she says.

Fonda finishes the interview with a brief spot of wisdom on the importance of instilling values in children. "You have got to live what you say, or they will trip you up as being hypocritical," she says.

Most of what is passed on to the younger generation is through osmosis, she continues. "I saw the kinds of roles that were important to my father — in 'Grapes of Wrath,' 'Twelve Angry Men' — and it had a deep effect on me," she says.

Today, movies remain the strongest influence for her. She recently took son Troy to Mississippi Burning. "He knew Tom and I were going to Atlanta to march on Martin Luther King's birthday. And he said, 'I want to go with you.'"

"I'm so grateful that it affected my child so that he said, 'I want to be part of whatever will remind people that this can never happen again.'"

The Christian Science Monitor.

Chemotherapy benefits early breast cancer cases

By Daniel Q. Haney

BOSTON. (AP): Four new studies show that chemotherapy and hormones can moderately improve the outlook for the 70,000 women in the United States diagnosed each year with early breast cancer, but experts disagree over whether every patient should get these powerful drugs.

Until recently, doctors believed that chemotherapy should be reserved for women whose breast cancer had spread to their lymph nodes. The new research suggests that many of those whose tumours are still confined to their breasts could also benefit from this treatment.

The studies found that women who got chemotherapy or hormonal therapy were somewhat more likely to remain free of cancer, but they did not live any longer than those who were treated with standard surgery and radiation.

About 70 per cent of women operated on for early breast cancer do well without any follow-up drug therapy. The newest results present physicians with a dilemma: should they subject all patients to often-gruelling courses of drug therapy, even though only a small minority of them will benefit?

Several experts agreed that the decision to use the medicines should be left up to the patient and not made by the physician alone.

Mistake

"The mistake would be for doctors to automatically give the drug without explaining the unresolved issues about whether there will be a survival advantage and the possible long-term side effects," said Dr. Nicholas Robert of New England Medical Centre, a co-author of one of the studies.

Last May, the National Cancer Institute sent letters to doctors recommending that all breast cancer patients get chemotherapy or hormone therapy. As evidence, it revealed the broad conclusions of three of

Until recently, doctors believed chemotherapy should be reserved for women whose breast cancer had spread to their lymph nodes. New studies indicate a wider use.

the latest studies but gave few details.

"Many people didn't feel that the alert from the NCI was documented by enough evidence to justify it," said Dr. Merrill I. Feldman of University Hospital in Boston, another co-author. "It still doesn't justify putting all women on this, unless they fit the strict criteria of the women in these studies."

Details of three US studies and one conducted in Europe were published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

"I think these four studies will have a significant impact on how people are taken care of," said Robert. "People will have an opportunity to read the details and will change the way they talk to women with node-negative breast cancer."

Found

In general, the studies found that about 80 per cent of the women getting drug treatment were still free of disease after about four years, compared with about 72 per cent of those who were not treated. There was no significant difference in the death rates between the two groups.

However, researchers noted that even if the treatment does help women live longer, this advantage may not become clear until many years later.

In an editorial in the journal, Dr. Vincent T. DeVita Jr. of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre, a former head of the Cancer Institute, said the studies document "an impressive reduction in the risk of recurrence." He recommended that drug treatment be offered to all breast cancer patients except those with

very small tumours.

However, in another editorial, Dr. William L. McGuire of the University of Texas Health Science Centre at San Antonio noted that if doctors treated all 70,000 women with early breast cancer, they would prevent recurrence in 5,040 of them. The rest would have been treated needlessly, and the therapy would have cost \$338 million. As many as 50 to 100 women would die from the treatment itself.

"I would argue that the cost considerably outweighs the benefits of treating all node-negative patients, especially in the absence of a proved survival benefit," McGuire wrote.

Treatment

Robert said he would consider drug treatment for somewhat more than half of women with early breast cancer, while Feldman said it might be reasonable for about 70 per cent.

The four studies published were: ● The National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project, or NSABP, treated 679 women with tumours that did not respond to hormones. After four years, 80 per cent of those getting a three-drug combination were cancer-free, compared with 71 per cent in a comparison group.

● A second NSABP study treated 2,644 women with tumours sensitive to hormones. After five years, 83 per cent getting the synthetic hormone tamoxifen were cancer-free, versus 77 per cent in a comparison group.

● A multi-hospital study directed by Dr. Edward G. Mansour of Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital treated 403 women with large tumours. After three years, 84 per cent getting a four-drug combination and 69 per cent in a comparison group were still free of cancer.

● The Ludwig Breast Cancer Study Group in Europe treated 1,275 women with early breast cancer. After four years, 77 per cent of those who received a four-drug combination were cancer-free, as were 73 per cent in a comparison group.

Women: life begins at forty, says survey

By George Gordon

IT may be a cliché but for women it has never been more true. Life really does begin at 40.

It's the age when sexuality, confidence and careers begin to bloom, according to a new survey in America.

"This dispels once and for all that women get depressed and become alcoholics after 40," said Frances Lear, editor of Lear's magazine for professional women in America.

She commissioned a Harris poll of 700 middle-class women between 40 and 65 and unearthed an "overwhelming" contrast with a similar one 20 years ago which found women sinking into depression.

Now, 94 per cent believe it is possible to get what they want out of life.

Three quarters are extremely or very satisfied with their lives. Three quarters think they are equally or more sexually appealing than ten years ago.

Sixty-four per cent are as or more attracted to men than ten years ago and 59 per cent say they are as or more sexually active.

Paid

Love is more important to 97 per cent and "the most important thing" to 53 per cent.

Some 74 per cent are in paid work, 51 per cent want to start their own business and 42 per cent already have.

Fifty-nine per cent feel they are enjoying the best years of their marriage and seven out of ten rate their partnerships "very successful."

Some 76 per cent believe men have changed in the past 25 years, 73 per cent saying for the better and 24 per cent for the worse.

Lear's magazine, "for the women who weren't born yesterday," asked Harris to target women with university backgrounds and household incomes above \$25,000.

Age mellowing Martina



Martina Navratilova: all set for a big home match

fitness. "I have been a little bit deliberative," she said. "But if I had to run a 60-yard dash now I would be as fast as I ever was."

"In the off-weeks I work out very hard. I work on my quickness and endurance."

But Navratilova, now second in the world behind Graf, quashed any speculation she would soon retire to her home in Fort Worth, Texas with her numerous pet cats, a miniature fox terrier called K.D. (Killer Dog) and a horse named Grand Slam.

"I am definitely planning on playing (the 1992 Olympics) in Barcelona," she said.

The Czechoslovak-born

Navratilova was the only one of the world's top five women missing when tennis returned to the Olympics in Seoul last September after a 64-year absence.

She apparently felt her schedule would not accommodate the Games but later told her regular doubles partner Pam Shriver she regretted her decision to stay away.

Navratilova revolutionised women's tennis in the late 1970s with relentless left-handed serve-and-volley tactics few rivals could withstand.

She transformed herself from a slightly podgy teenager into one of the most single-minded athletes the game has ever seen.

renowned for a gruelling training schedule and revered as an unsurpassed strategist.

But now she is being eclipsed by the 19-year-old Graf, who swept all four Grand Slam crowns last year and won the Australian Open again last month.

Navratilova has been beaten by the West German three times in their last five encounters and accepts that she may not get many more chances for revenge unless she sharpens up her mental attitude.

"I have to get to play her first," Navratilova said. "Lately I have been losing before I got the chance to play her."

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ARCHITECTURE



A worshipper prays on a straw prayer mat outside the Grand Mosque in Mopti, Mali

Mali's majestic mud mosques

By Bunny McBride

TIMBUKTU, Mali: Sun penetrates the sand streets and mud buildings of ancient cities situated at the southern edge of the Sahara — so much so that places like Timbuktu, Gao, Mopti, and Djenné feel like open-air ovens. It is said that a person loses three litres of body water an hour just walking in this region. In such ponderous heat, stepping into the cool corridors of a mosque is as much physical relief as spiritual sanctuary.

In Mali, most mosques are made of mud brick, and are as ubiquitous and varied as the termite mounds that dot the austere territory. Formed from the earth on which they stand, they seem integral to the landscape, like sand castles on a beach. They have a beauty not of colour, but of silhouette, line, and texture. Countless storms of sand or rain have weathered their crenellated walls and conical towers. Their sloping minarets are studded with palmyra

sticks, used to scale the buildings to make repairs. Over the years, the mud walls, like the faith of the Muslims themselves, have been rebuilt time and time again.

By the 8th century, Muslim-Arab traders from North Africa had begun crossing the seething Sahara, leading huge caravans of camels southward to this region. They carried salt in and gold out, gradually turning cities such as Timbuktu into thriving emporiums. In addition to trade goods, they brought the religious, political, and social culture of Islam — including mosque.

The oldest standing mosque in Mali is Djinguerey in Timbuktu, built by Kankan Musa, 14th-century emperor of Mali. In the year 1325, Musa made a fabulous pilgrimage to the holy Islamic city of Makkah. En route he arrived in Egypt with 60,000 men, 80 camels laden with 300 pounds of gold apiece, and 500 slaves, each carrying a four-pound bar of gold. In

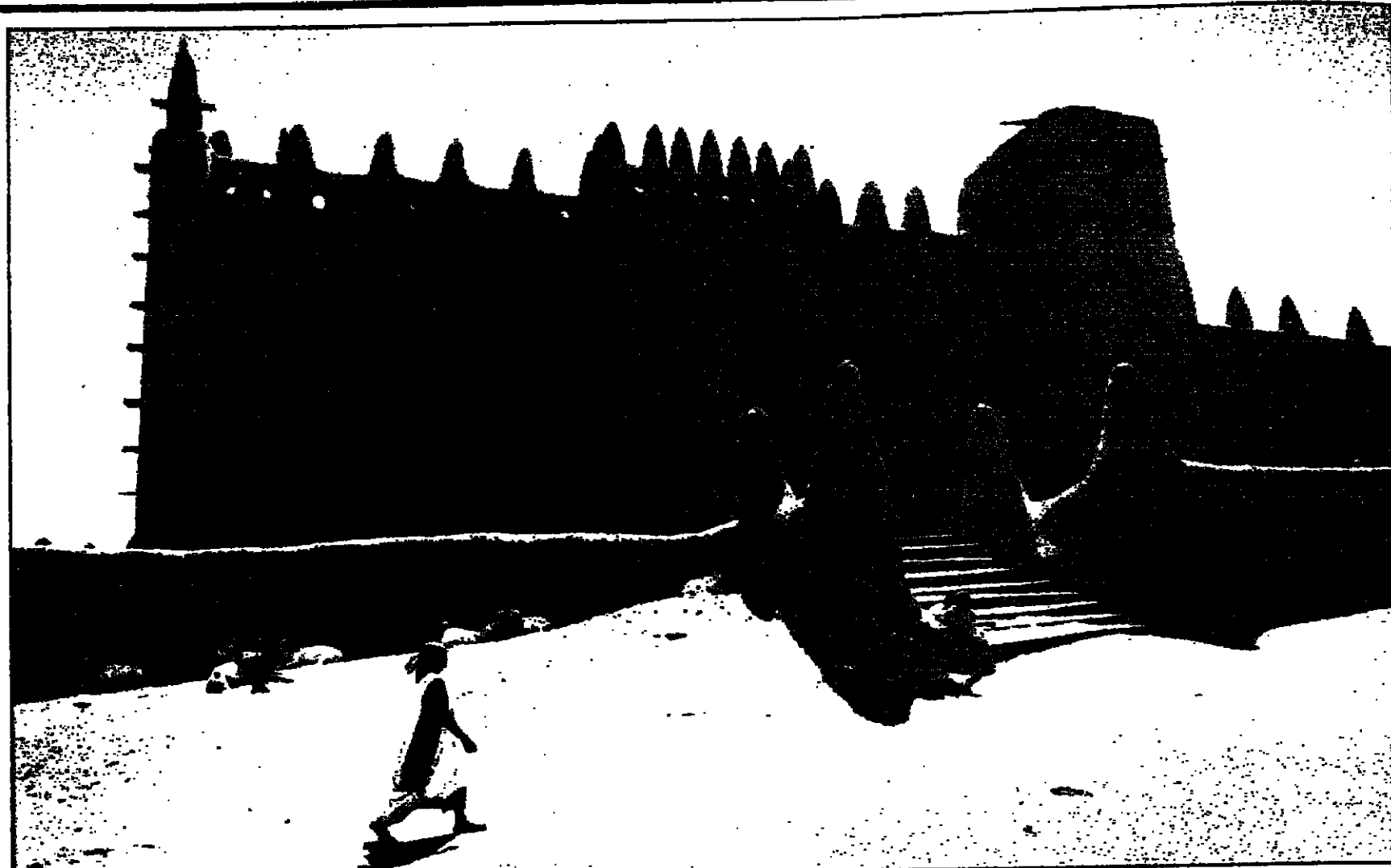


Cairo, the value of the local currency, which was tied to gold, was depressed for some 12 years because of Musa's lavish gift-giving.

Egypt had at least as much impact on Musa as the royal pilgrim did on it. It was here that he met the famous Muslim architect As-Sahili and persuaded him to come to Mali and oversee the building of the Djinguerey mosque. Its mud-brick construction became a kind of architectural model for future mosques in the region. In addition to Djinguerey,

In Mali, most mosques are made of mud brick, and are as ubiquitous and varied as the termite mounds that dot the austere territory. Formed from the earth on which they stand, they seem integral to the landscape like sand-castles on a beach.

They have a beauty not of colour, but of silhouette, line and texture. Countless storms of sand or rain have weathered their crenellated walls and conical towers ... over the years the mud walls, like the faith of the Muslims themselves, have been rebuilt.



The Djenné mosque in Timbuktu looks like a giant sand-castle and blends with the surroundings in perfect harmony, and at left, a young guide stands in the Hall of Gao, burial place of Emperor Askia Muhammad.

there are two other ancient mosques in Timbuktu. Near the marketplace stands a smaller, 15th-century mosque named Sidi Yahya. Just above road level there is a small shuttered window in this mosque's wall. It overlooks the grave of a marabout (Muslim holy man).

Era Legend has it that in days of yore, men accused of crimes were brought to this window and forced to thrust their heads through the opening until they could see the grave. If a man

was guilty, he died instantly of terror. If innocent, he showed no fear.

Another mosque, the Sankore, became a university in the 15th century, during the reign of Emperor Askia Muhammad. In this era, Timbuktu grew into a consummate cultural and intellectual centre, drawing scholars from many corners of Africa. More than 20,000 students attended some 180 Quranic schools in the city, and pound for pound books sold for more than any other trade item, including gold.

A Sudanese proverb of the day claimed, "Salt comes from the north, gold from the south, and silver from the city of white men. But the word of God and the treasures of wisdom are only to be found in Timbuktu."

When Askia Muhammad died in the 16th century, a grand mosque was built in his honour in Gao, east of Timbuktu. The emperor is buried in a pyramid in the central courtyard of the mosque, his tomb surrounded by prayer chambers. As in other corners of the world, Muslims must wash their hands and feet

before stepping inside. But in this drought-ridden country, there is not the usual ablution fountain at each mosque's entryway. Here, visitors wash with sand.

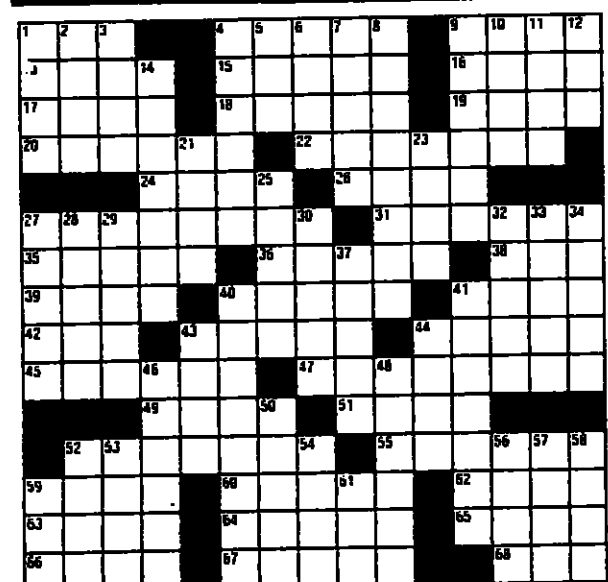
Perhaps the most renowned mosque in Mali is in Djenné, a city southwest of Timbuktu. This sublime structure has 100 columns, and towers over the city's brilliantly colourful marketplace. From its sun-struck central courtyard, sun filters into the surrounding nave. The deeper in one walks, the darker and cooler it

becomes. Inside these shadowy, arched corridors, netting hangs from the ceiling for birds to nest in. Rolled straw mats and goatskins lean against the walls waiting for the faithful to come and lay them out on the sand floor. The interior is as simple as a desert landscape. Nothing glitters.

Within the divine dullness of these walls, one's thoughts, undistracted, turn inward and deep.

1989, The Christian Science Monitor Publishing Society.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- The Few.
 - WSC
 - Pour out slowly
 - Back talk
 - whose — being gored
 - Copy of a kind
 - Montreal player
 - Middle
 - Comb. form
 - Nepal's neighbor
 - Holly
 - Actress Smith
 - Pure
 - Little ones
 - Actress
 - Lolobrigida
 - Ledger entries
 - Ticket agent's headache
 - Sherry district of Spain, old style
 - Turns thumbs down
 - Guido's high note
 - Presently
 - Angry
 - 49, to Hadrian
 - Cowboy star Tom
 - Sugar Ray, e.g.
 - Excavate
 - What do you have to — yourself?
 - Federal artery
 - Tiny amount
 - Essential point
 - Noted movie critic
 - Andover's rival
 - Redd
 - MD's tools
 - Coburg-Gotha
 - Olympic runner, of a sort
 - Tages:
- DOWN**
- one day
 - Corn lily
 - WW II alliance
 - Poorly drained
 - Followed. Suffix
 - City on the Tevere
 - Faust for Debi Thomas
 - Bona —
 - Foreign Prefix
 - Hindustani
 - Not idle
 - Investigated
 - Tennis notable
 - Vic —
 - Wheel shaft
 - Hurried
 - Red or White team
 - "Sweet" time
 - Charged particles
 - Namesakes of Cadmus's daughter
 - Old man to Cicero
 - Campus finals
 - City ESE of Dayton, O.
 - Stylish
 - Lofty retreat
 - Sauce or soup thickener
 - Vet
 - Hamlet, e.g.
 - Move along the runway
 - Theater sign
 - Culprit in Roman law
 - Sun Belt state, for short
 - Slangy affirmative

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

PAIRIT APITS SIPIE
 TIEIE BIAITU HOIS
 THEAFRICANQUEIN
 HELLITONIS CUITILE
 ETIAT ALAI
 RELATID ACIINTHE
 ALOFIT ANDIA HOI
 LIEG SLOIAN ERIG
 LIMA PELIT SIARIAH
 KINGBIIRD FINEST
 AINT TIDY
 ARISTO FIREWALL
 JACKOIFALLTRAIDES
 AGEIE FROTH YETI
 REIST FEISS SISTS

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

RENDER UNTO CAESAR

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
 ♠ Q 7 2
 ♥ A Q 8 7 6
 ♦ 6 4 3
 ♣ Q 10

WEST
 ♠ A J 8 5
 ♥ 3 2
 ♦ J 10 9
 ♣ K 8 6 4

EAST
 ♠ 10 6 4 3
 ♥ 4
 ♦ Q 7 5
 ♣ A 7 5 3 2

SOUTH
 ♠ K 9
 ♥ K J 10 9 5
 ♦ A K 8 2
 ♣ J 9

The bidding:

North East South West
 Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass
 3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
 Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

Looking for a holiday gift for a bridge-playing friend? You could do a lot worse than get him the set of 20 Kantar Lessons (available from Edwin B. Kantar, P.O. Box 427, Venice, Calif. 90291-0427; \$35 postpaid). The series includes both bidding and play, and is one of the most comprehensive lesson manuals available. This hand is from the section "Deception in Declarer Play."

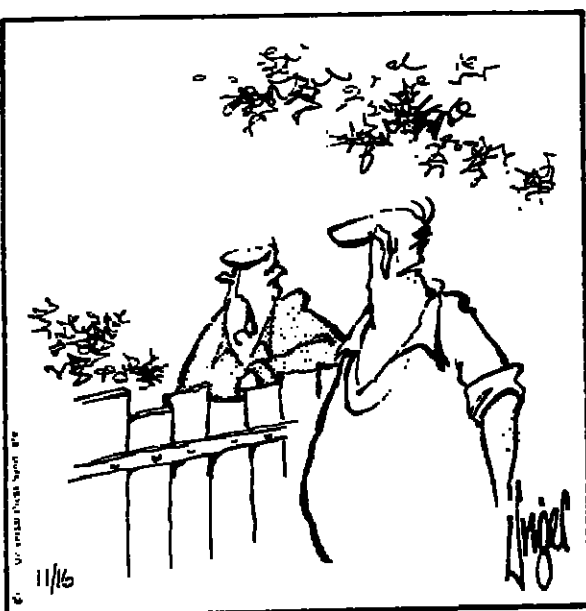
Four hearts is a normal contract to reach. It has virtually no play only because of the wasted values in clubs, and no auction could reveal that. Kantar writes:

"East signals with the diamond seven and South plays low! South has a diamond loser in any case and, if diamonds are 3-3, South can use his fourth diamond to discard one of dummy's losing clubs. However, South must make his deceptive play early before the opponents can read his intentions."

"If South wins the opening lead and later tries to establish diamonds for a club discard, the opponents will know that South has a fourth diamond and will shift to clubs. Also, when weak in a suit it is dangerous to draw trumps immediately, as it gives the opponents a chance to signal strength in that suit when discarding on the trump suit."

"Notice that if South wins the diamond lead and draws trumps, East can signal with the seven of clubs on the second round of trumps and the cat is out of the bag. For shame!"

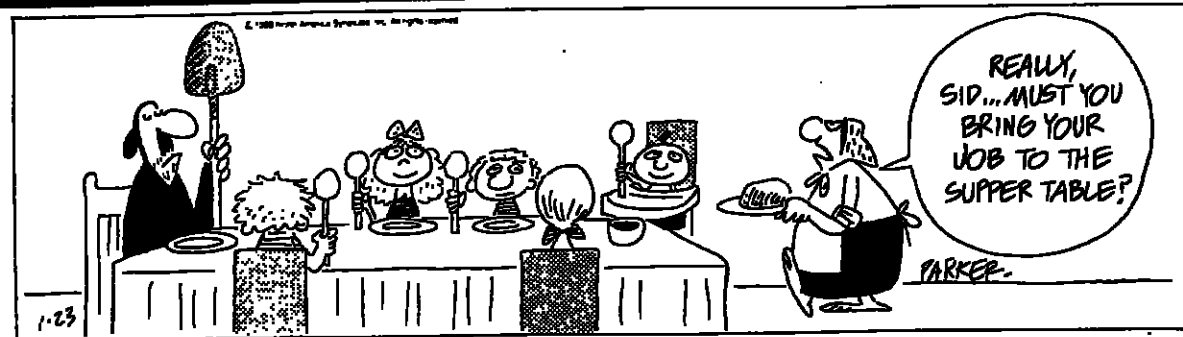
Look at the lessons before giving them away. You might decide to keep them for yourself and order another set for your friend!



"In 10 years, she's gone from ballerina to sports arena."

THE WIZARD OF ID

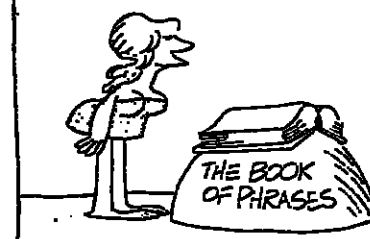
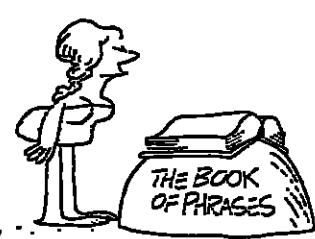
By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart

micro-mini



A CODE NAME FOR CIA COVER-UPS.

YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

You will have to work hard if you want to meet your commitments. You will be better able to deal with an abiding problem. Try to get a little more fresh air. Be prudent.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

Something you have been seeking to learn for some time will suddenly "click." You should try to place more reliance on yourself, less on others. It would be wrong to jump to conclusions. Be objective.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

You will not feel at your best but if you concentrate you will nonetheless be able to make good headway. You should not do anything obviously injurious to your health.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

You will be tempted to spend large sums on trivialities. Don't. Nor should you allow yourself to be tempted by an investment that seems to offer quick returns. Take good care of your personal appearance. Be broad-minded.



Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)

You should not get flustered because time is short, just get on with it without allowing yourself to be distracted. And do not try to do more than one thing at a time. Avoid acting on impulse. Be sincere.



Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)

If you drive fast because you are late when there are speed limits you will be in trouble. Do not let others persuade you to do something that is against your better judgement. You should not have a too late night. Be tolerant.



Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)

Avoid parking where you know you must not. Avoid the temptation to allow your debts to grow because you cannot afford what you would like. Listen to what others are saying. Be less spiteful.



Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

Do not spend merely in order to keep up appearances you cannot afford to maintain. You will be better able to deal with a backlog of work. You should not lose faith in yourself. Be resilient.



Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

You will tend to tire rather more easily and you should not do anything too strenuous. Make sure that you carry out a promise you have made. You must not eat anything too spicy or greasy. Be reasonable.



Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19

A tendency to leave things until the last moment should be combated. You will be able to set your children a good example and should do so. Have a good chat, but do not take too long over it. Be prudent.



Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)

You will be amazed at how quickly time passes and should make sure you do not allow yourself to be distracted. Make a phone call before it is too late. Give others the benefit of any doubt. Be less inquisitive.



Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)

The better influence of the Sun and Venus will help you to avoid a trap someone has set for you. You will be able to do by charm and persuasion something that cannot be done by force.

مكتبة ابن خلدون

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Jiyun keen to boost ties with Iran

China could play a major role in reconstruction projects: Khamenei

NICOSIA, Cyprus, March 6, (Agencies): Iranian President Ali Khamenei said yesterday China could play a major role in reconstruction projects Tehran launched after a United Nations ceasefire halted eight years of hostilities with Iraq.

Tehran Radio, monitored in Nicosia, said that in his meeting with visiting Chinese Deputy Premier Tian Jiyun, Khamenei said: "The fields of co-operation between our two countries are more than those currently identified, and other fields where we can co-operate must be studied more seriously."

China was one of Iran's major arms-suppliers during the Gulf war, when Tehran was virtually isolated by the West, and faced an arms embargo which forced it

to look elsewhere for crucially needed weaponry.

Jiyun briefed Khamenei on meetings with other Iranian leaders, and said: "We sympathise with the loss of life and property during the war. We will use all our efforts to help you in reconstruction."

Analysts estimate that Iran's reconstruction programmes would cost \$300-500 billion.

Western companies have been trying to move into the Iranian market. But with Iran receding anew into diplomatic isolation after Ayatollah Khomeini's call for killing British writer Salman Rushdie, countries like China can presumably have a larger chunk of Iranian reconstruction projects.

Khamenei said: "In our co-

operation with other countries, we prefer to deal with countries for which our nation does not harbour bitter memories."

Reconstruction

He said: "Our reconstruction will not be limited to those destroyed by the war. We will embark on all programmes which were ignored by the previous regime."

Earlier Sunday, Jiyun met with Iranian Prime Minister Hussein Musavi, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

The agency, also monitored in Nicosia, quoted Musavi as saying the good Iran-China relations during the Gulf war, would "certainly" have a positive influence on the expansion of

mutual co-operation.

The Chinese official, heading a high-ranking political-economic delegation according to IRNA, arrived in Tehran on Friday, marking the latest of a string of high-level visits to each other's countries by Chinese and Iranian officials in recent months.

Willingness

The Iranian agency said Jiyun expressed his country's willingness to boost relations with Iran and disclosed that China has become Iran's sixth foreign trade partner while it ranked 40th 10 years ago.

Since the ceasefire China and the Islamic republic have signed agreements for construction of a dam and two major power plants in Iran and on sharing commun-

ications technology.

Jiyun handed Musavi a "friendly message" from his Chinese counterpart and discussed with him the latest developments in the Gulf war peace process, as well as bilateral relations and other issues of common interest, IRNA reported.

Efforts

It said Musavi sent an official invitation to the Chinese prime minister with Jiyun and stressed that Tehran and Beijing "can draw a solid and constant plan for expansion of mutual co-operation, in the light of China's friendly attitude towards" Iran during the war.

Earlier this month, Iran became the first Third World country to open a consulate in

the Chinese port of Shanghai.

The diplomatic row follows careful efforts by Tehran to mend ties with the West following the August 1988 ceasefire in the eight-year Gulf war against Iraq.

Iran's five leading trade partners are West Germany, Turkey, Japan, Britain and Italy. While Japan and Turkey are not directly involved in the diplomatic row, Japan has reportedly asked its importers to reduce oil from Iran by one-third by April.

The rift with the West has affected Iran's plans for reconstruction and diminished prospects of Tehran receiving \$3 to 4 billion in credits it sought from West European states for this purpose.

World Business Summary

ASPIP welcomes patents law in S. Arabia

KUWAIT, March 6, (KUNA): President of the Arab Society for the Protection of Industrial Property (ASPIP) Talal Abu-Ghazaleh has said that his organisation welcomes the recently announced patents law in Saudi Arabia and the trademarks law in Oman, an ASPIP press release said here today. "These laws are welcome developments and indicate the importance which Arab governments attach to the protection of industrial property in this region," he said. The release noted that Abu Ghazaleh was speaking at a gathering of businessmen at the Hadeida Chamber of Commerce in the Yemen Arab Republic. The symposium was inaugurated by Chairman of the Chamber Abu Bakr Salem Al-Shamakh and was attended by, among others, the Director-General of the Commercial Register in the Ministry of Economy, Mohammad Yabia Raseh. Abu-Ghazaleh's address dealt with intellectual property matters. He gave a brief run-down of the rules and regulations governing the profession and the international treaties and conventions such as the Paris, Madrid and Berne conventions. He then went on to discuss the role of specialised international organisations in this field, such as the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and other international bodies.

Malaysia ready to cut oil exports

KUALA LUMPUR, March 6, (KUNA): Malaysia will reduce its oil exports once governments of the other non-OPEC members do the same, it was reported here yesterday. The report quoted Malaysian minister in the prime minister's department Kasitah Gaddam as saying that the non-OPEC members had offered to reduce exports in an effort to stabilise world oil prices at a Feb 21 meeting in London between OPEC and non-OPEC members. He said the cabinet is aware of the decision made by technical experts from non-OPEC members to cut exports. However, Malaysia would only trim exports if all the non-OPEC members represented at the meeting agreed to do the same, he said. Two senior officials from the national oil corporation (Petronas) represented Malaysia at the London meeting. The other independent producers represented at the meeting were Mexico, Angola, Egypt, Oman and China. "We are still waiting for the others to respond."

US facing calls to review Baker debt plan

WASHINGTON, March 6, (AP): The economic and social turmoil that rocked Venezuela last week has put pressure on Washington to review Secretary of State James A. Baker's plan for dealing with the international debt crisis facing many Latin American countries.

"Time is running out," said Sen. Bill Bradley, a member of the Senate Finance Committee and a specialist on international debt. "Today's crisis is with Venezuela. Tomorrow's could be Mexico."

The Bush administration is considering making Venezuela a bridging loan close to \$500 million as part of a package to help it cope with its deepening economic crisis, an administration official said yesterday.

Details of the loan were discussed by administration officials on Friday, said the official, who requested anonymity.

The total short-term aid package, including loans from other governments and commercial banks, could go as high as \$2 billion, the New York Times reported.

The need for such help arose this week when rioting broke out after Venezuela's month-old government raised petrol and transportation prices to try to dampen inflation and stabilise the economy.

The bridge loan is designed to replenish Venezuela's depleted reserves over the next few months until longer-term loans from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank can be worked out.

Under an agreement with the IMF, Venezuela agreed to adopt its austerity measures in exchange for a \$4.5 billion loan over a three-year period. The international body is composed of 151 member nations, but its largest contributor is the United States.

Critics in Venezuela, and elsewhere, have pointed out to the IMF's austerity requirements as being partly to blame for the turmoil. But its defenders contend the requirements amount to bitter medicine that is long overdue.

"The country has its back to the wall, and it has no other choice than to strengthen its economic situation at once," said an IMF official, speaking on condition of anonymity. "We can send a signal to the rest of the world that by working to solve its problems, Venezuela is doing the right thing."

Plan to complete major power station in 4 months

ABU DHABI, March 6, (OPECNA): The Taweela power station, one of the region's biggest, is to become operational in four months in the Abu Dhabi Emirate, according to Saeed Atiq, assistant undersecretary at the Abu Dhabi Water and Electricity Department.

He said in the first phase, it would supply the Abu Dhabi emirate with 250 mw of power and 20 million gallons of water, sufficient to meet the needs of the Abu Dhabi city and its suburbs for the next three to four years.

The official said that in about three months tenders would be called for the next phase which would ensure the supply of 40 million gallons of water and 400 mw of power.

Atiq said the department also planned to build a major station to supply power and water to a large number of villages and islands in the emirate. To be located between Mirfa and Ruwais, it would produce 20 million gallons of water and generate 250 mw of power when completed.

'A bold step towards solving the problems faced by the country' Indian budget's arbitrary approach criticised

BOMBAY, March 6: The Indian budget received bouquets as well as brickbats from economists and taxation experts at a meeting organised by Indian Merchants Chamber here last week.

Bansi Mehta, a leading chartered accountant and chairman of the chamber's taxation committee, said the budget betrayed a "wholly arbitrary approach" to the various measures, which "lacked in a sense of equity, fairness and even-handedness" towards various segments of society, according to the Economic Times.

The arbitrariness also manifested in respect to the government's avowed stance of maintenance of stability in the long-term fiscal policy, he said.

Profits

Illustrating the point, he cited the "comical" instance exempting one-third profits of the poultry industry from taxation. How did this go well when there were many other economic activities, which did not earn any profits, but which did not enjoy exemption from taxation? he asked. A similar arbitrariness could also be noticed in respect to the abandonment of the principle that tax compliance was better, if the tax rate is within tolerance limit.

Similar double-thinking could be detected in the imposition of high duty on computers and other electronics, which were once held as the "in thing" by the prime minister.

He also expressed alarm on the casual attitude with which the government has been resorting to retrospective amendment of various laws.

Taxation

Dadi Engineer, an expert in indirect taxation, said the finance minister fell flat in his attempt to present a good budget.

The budgetary provisions were particularly cruel to the urban middle classes and affluent sections. The 5 per cent across the board excise duty and that on colour TVs, radios, tape recorders etc. would hurt these sections. So also the 8 per cent surcharge on those with income over Rs50,000. Hike in duty on iron and steel items were particularly harsh, he said.

Engineer, however, was all praise for the rationalisation of customs duty on import of projects and capital goods.

Prof. Manu Shroff, editor of the Economic Times, called the budget a "bureaucrat's delight". For the first time, one could discern the government expenditure was curtailed. Even the military expenditure was sought to be controlled, he said.

Surcharge

The incidence of new surcharge could be deemed as modest when considered against the withdrawal of the erstwhile drought surcharge. The net result was only 3 per cent additional tax.

The feature of new fiscal levies

indicated that they would not be inflationary. This was also because, attempts were made to curtail deficits. "I only hope that the trend will continue in the coming years, as the problem cannot be tackled in a single year," he said.

He said the government also, for the first time, has now recognised that the balance of payments situation was directly related to the country's fiscal deficits.

However, he fondly wished that the government should have been more transparent in respect to the transfer of surplus funds of the oil co-ordination committee to the revenue account.

He lamented that the finance minister has failed to divert the massive household savings towards investment. The attempts in that direction such as the new series of national savings certificates and hike in the deduction level from Rs1,000 to Rs2,500 on investment in debentures were too feeble.

Expectations

Earlier, Rohit J. Patel, chamber president, observed that the budget had belied the people's expectations. They had expected special steps to take advantage of the merging growth opportunities in this bumper agriculture year, and also pre-election budgetary bonuses to the people. But the expectations did not come true.

Minoo R. Shroff, leading economist has said the budget lacks a sense of direction. It should have provided a positive growth impulse, when the general mood of entrepreneurs and individual investors was one of optimism.

Speaking on the Union budget at a meeting organised by the All India Association of Industries, he said that a psychological boost to the individual investors was critical at this juncture when large capital intensive project promoters were planning to tap the capital market.

He said that the budget turned out to be a "damp squib" in view of the high hopes aroused by the finance minister himself earlier that the government was alive and conscious of the need to revitalise the capital market.

Consumer durables and motor vehicles sectors were also likely to face a deceleration in the rate of growth in view of rapid escalation in costs, he added.

K. Karunakaran, the Kerala opposition leader, hailed the budget for 1989-90 as "a bold step towards solving the problems faced by the country."

He welcomed the priority given to poverty eradication, development and job-generation in the budget proposals.

He congratulated the Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and the finance minister, S.B. Chavan, on presenting such a "popular budget."

Y. P. Trivedi, a leading taxation expert, said that the finance minister had shown courage and pragmatism in presenting the

current budget in spite of the election year. "The budget is not populist as expected and at the same time it is not economically unsound."

To achieve the targets of the five-year plans and for the government's "poverty alleviation programmes" the finance minister is justified if the urban rich was subjected to certain increases in taxes, he said.

The new saving scheme for the retiring government employees is a welcome step. Trivedi said that the scheme should also be extended to the employees in the private sector if possible.

Trivedi was in the view that the additional burden of excise in the budget may put some pressure on certain companies. But they should be able to bear it considering (Continued on Page 12)

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Oil prices slightly firmer

Dollar boosted by hints Japan will not raise rates

LONDON, March 6, (Reuters): The dollar traded higher in Europe today after a top Japanese financial official said there was no need for higher interest rates in Japan, dealers said.

European stock markets, which rose on sentiment that interest rates may have peaked for the time being, were given extra support by a firmer morning tone on Wall Street. High interest rates tend to divert money away from stocks into interest-bearing deposits. Also, higher rates outside the United States would make dollar holdings less attractive.

Buoyed
Currency dealers in Frankfurt said the dollar was buoyed earlier in the day when Japanese Finance Ministry official Makoto Utsuni said the US currency was near its bottom and there was no need for higher Japanese interest rates to ease bottlenecks in the economy.

"The comments hit the market when things were very quiet and that exaggerated their impact," said one dealer. "Basically it was the same thing they have been saying for a long time."

Activity was likely to stay quiet this week as no significant economic figures are due until the United States reports its February unemployment data

on Friday.
The dollar closed in London at 1.8520 West German marks and 128.67 Japanese yen after 1.8405 and 127.95 on Friday.

Growing market confidence that interest rates would remain stable in the near future helped West German and French shares to a higher finish, dealers in Frankfurt and Paris said.

Wall Street's Dow Jones industrial average was up 3.75 points at 2,278.04 by noon, but activity was light and dealers said the market was awaiting Friday's US jobs data.

Earlier, Tokyo shares ended lower on profit-taking. Gold bullion finished at \$386.50 an ounce in London, unchanged from Friday.

Oil was slightly firmer in quiet business. North Sea Brent blend, the most widely traded crude, was quoted around \$17 a barrel from April delivery in late European trading, up around five cents from Friday.

The benchmark US treasury 30-year bond was quoted in London at 98.27/32 per cent, yielding 9.11 per cent.

In London shares were below their highs on the day in sluggish afternoon business, although a firm showing on Wall Street was helping to support prices, dealers said.

News UK retail sales were revised down to show a 2.4 per cent fall in January from the previously announced provisional 1.5 per cent decline was taken by some as a sign to sell. But prices soon moved upwards again on the feeling that the data took some upward pressure off UK base rates, currently at 13 per cent.

By 1538 GMT the FTSE 100 share index was up 11.6 points to 2,078.8, having touched 2,077.0 during the morning.

Prices
Equities analysts said prices retreated after the revised retail sales number initially because of worries that British industry could start to suffer from contracting sales.

Bob Semple, economist at broker company Natwest Woodmac, said the fall in retail sales was evidence of an anti-inflationary consumer spending slowdown that the UK interest rate hikes in 1988 were aimed at achieving.

The pound was firm today, with foreign exchange dealers suggesting the currency might have stabilised after recent falls. Sterling's weakness has caused some concern that Britain might have to raise interest rates to support the currency.

Nick Knight, economist at

Drexel Burnham, said, "we've seen little in the developments of the past week to suggest we should be settling this market and there is still pressure on those who did not participate fully in the January rally to get on board."

The retail sales data dented sentiment for some of the retailers, with Sears down 2p to 119, Gateway off 2p to 163 and J. Sainsbury 1p off at 222.

Analysts earlier today pointed out that a breakdown of the retail sales figure reveals a strong decline in spending in the food retailing sector, some of which may stem from recent food poisoning scares.

Electrical retailer Dixons was up a net 3p to 156 on much higher than usual turnover of 8.7 shares by 1617 GMT. Dealers said news that investment firm J. Rothschild Holdings and its clients held two per cent of Dixons revived bid speculation.

A Rothschild spokesman said the shares were acquired for the company and its clients as an investment. Analysts said they thought it unlikely the company had preparatory aspirations but said the news brought the shares back to the market's attention.

Retailer Marks & Spencer was down 3p to 120 following news it has formed a £170 million joint ven-

ture property company with Property Development Group London and Edinburgh Trust.
Dealers said Storehouse's property portfolio would make it attractive to a predator but noted that another property deal, such as the one announced this morning, could make it more difficult to absorb in a bid.

Seven per cent stake holder Asher Edelman said he planned to change the management at Storehouse. Last month Edelman said he was willing to negotiate with the board of Storehouse on a price at which he would bid.

Dalgety was off 2p to 375 after 379. Last week Dalgety said Australian businessman Robert Holmes a Court and associates were believed to have bought around 2.3 per cent in Dalgety recently.

Textiles company Courtaulds was down 7p to 297. It said today it intends to raise its offer for Australia's Taubmans Industries if it acquires 90 per cent of the firm. The offer would be increased to \$6.42 per share from \$5.70 once the compulsory acquisition level is reached.

The recent steady buying of Reuters shares by US investors continued today with the shares rising 21p to 725. Dealers said US buying also lifted Rascal 13p to 386.

Eastern Airlines fights to keep flying in face of strike

MIAMI, March 6, (Reuters): Eastern Airlines, virtually grounded by a strike that has stranded thousands of passengers and threatened its financial survival, struggled today to muster enough pilots to keep a skeleton fleet flying.

As travellers bedded down in airport lobbies, millions of commuters in major US cities were granted a reprieve from rush-hour chaos when striking Eastern mechanics said they would postpone holding disruptive secondary pickets at railway stations.

Federal judges in New York and Philadelphia issued restraining orders against sympathy strikes.

Services
Eastern, primarily a domestic US carrier, is also the largest American airline serving Latin America. Services to the region

have been affected.
The International Association of Machinists (IAM) said today it was now setting its sights on continental airlines. Eastern's non-union sister carrier under the Texas Air Corp. umbrella, and would soon set up picket lines aimed at paralyzing its operations.

"We will bring the transportation network of this country to its knees," said Wally Haber, general chairman of IAM District 100, representing 8,500 striking mechanics and baggage handlers.

Proposal
The mechanics went on strike on Saturday morning after union negotiators turned down a contract proposal demanding \$125 million in wage concessions. Pilots and flight attendants walked off their job in sympathy

strikes.
Eastern's problems could spread to other major US airlines by tomorrow. The Air Line Pilots Association has called on its 41,000 members to begin a work-to-rule slowdown believed capable of clogging the country's air traffic system.

Yesterday, striking mechanics, backed by pilots and flight attendants, forced the nation's seventh largest airline to cancel all but 90 flights, nine per cent of its usual 1,000 daily flights.

The airline had promised to take special measures to maintain service to Latin America but only a handful of flights headed South from Miami on Saturday.
Texas Air chairman Frank Lorenzo, who acquired Eastern in 1986 and sharply curtailed its operations, has emerged as the prime target of strikers' bitterness.

Arab countries suffering from decrease in resources

API official opens seminar on management of public spending

By Lima Al Khalafawi

A SYMPOSIUM on the Management of Public Expenditure in the Arab Countries was opened yesterday by Dr Mohamed Al Awad Jalal Al Deen, deputy director of the Arab Planning Institute, at the institute, providing thirty experts and senior officials in finance and planning the opportunity to discuss and share mutual experiences regarding methods to improve efficiency in the management of public expenditure, linking plans with budget and projects, and improving methods of carrying out the budget.

During the symposium, Dr Fredrick Jaspersen, principal economist of macro-economic adjustment in the growth division of the World Bank, emphasised the macro-economic aspects of public sector expenditure in the Arab world, and the idea of linking resources availability to government budgets in the adjustment process.

Adjustment

He talked about the conceptual framework of adjustment and practical tools that can be used by people in finance and central banks anywhere in the world to ensure that public expenditures are consistent with

macro-economic expenditure. Jaspersen told the Arab Times that the common problem in any country in the world is the fluctuation in export earnings and its impact on the government budget. Another problem is how public expenditure can be rationalised so that objectives are still achieved in an efficient fashion.

He added that frequently the solution is improved targeting of government expenditures on public services, that is to focus expenditure on the poor so that services go to those in greatest need.

Jaspersen said that a specific problem which Arab countries face is how to sustain and accelerate economic growth and development in the context of reduced resource availability.

Problems
Other participants at the symposium discussed the common problems their governments face, and focused on technical factors in order to benefit from their differing experiences, in order to come out with proposals and solutions to solve such problems.

In the following session a senior representative from the International Monetary Fund, Thanos Catsambas, talked about the appropriate balance between public investments and



Picture shows Dr Fredrick Jaspersen (second left) with other participants during the symposium.

private investments, which he said means appropriate boundaries for government activity in investment.

Dr Mahdi Bazaz, regional coordinator of Economic Development Institute Programmes at the World Bank, said that many Arab countries are suffering from a decrease in resources,

either due to the decrease in oil prices or to a decrease in foreign remittances resulting from the decrease of oil prices.

Remittances
In Egypt, for example, the decrease in foreign remittances has affected on the country's foreign currency resources. This symposium, Bazaz said, could

provide the solution for the problem of decrease in public resources.

The symposium was attended by senior experts and government representatives from Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Somalia, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Qatar and other countries, and will continue through March 12.

MEED seminar on Iraqi business

Development projects to get a boost

IRAQ will proceed with its ambitious development programme despite potential short-term problems in raising the necessary financing. This was one of the main conclusions at a seminar held yesterday in the Sheraton Hotel to discuss a business report on Iraq 1989, prepared by MEED staff writer Jonathan Crusoe. The seminar was sponsored by Delta Electronic Center Co. W.L.L. Kuwait who represent MEED and McGraw-Hill publications.

MEED estimates that Iraq has plans to proceed with about \$50 billion worth of industrialisation projects, so many of which were originally planned under the 1981-85 development programme which was subsequently delayed by the war.

Spending

At the same time, the Iraqi government is expected to maintain import spending at an annual level of up to \$10 billion, to be augmented by private sector spending of about \$2 billion a year.

Import priorities will be defence, followed by supply of raw materials capital machinery and spare parts for import-substitution and export industries.

Debt

Over the next five years, Iraq is expected to earn up to \$100 billion in hard currency revenues from oil exports. However, apart from using the cash to pay for urgent and priority projects, goods and services, Iraq has also said it will try to pay back its commercial debt — estimated at about \$25 billion — during the next five years.

So priority will be given to



Picture shows from left to right, Jonathan Crusoe, Abdulla Mufaraj and Mohamed Chouri.

buying products from countries with which Iraq has trade agreements, or which offer trade finance. These include the Soviet Union and most of the Eastern bloc countries, Yugoslavia, China and India, Jordan and Morocco, the UK, Ireland, France and West Germany.

Assistance has also been sought from Arab development funds, particularly to finance infrastructure projects at Basra.

With certain countries, and for certain projects, Iraq oil will be used to finance goods and services. Priority will also be given to buying goods from those countries or companies which

are prepared to take Iraqi non-oil products in return.

The private sector is now given more encouragement by the government to become more involved in economic development. The private sector may use offshore foreign currency funds to finance imports, and the government is selling, or leasing farms, factories and hotels to private business. More design and construction work is now being carried out by local consultants and contractors.

There are also opportunities for the Arab businessmen to invest in Iraq. However, the Arab investment law passed in

April 1988 does not provide enough guarantees; of particular concern to the potential investor is how to repatriate capital investment costs and how to obtain guarantees against currency fluctuations.

Prospective contractors, suppliers and investors remain wary about a country, which faces heavy debt-repayment burden, and which continues to require funding for imports and projects.

However, it is generally believed that Iraq's potential assets — in oil, water and population — will be strong enough to meet its long term debt commitments.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, March 6, (Reuters): The market consolidated earlier gains amid investor caution and listless trading. The All Ordinaries index edged up 3.6 points to close at 1,512.6.

TOKYO: Share prices ended lower in scant turnover. Most participants took profits or stayed put amid worries about political issues and interest rates. The Nikkei index fell 123.24

points, or 0.39 per cent, to close at 31,876.86.

HONG KONG: Share traders took back the Hang Seng index initial 36-point gain and it closed 2.37 points up at 3,058.95.

SINGAPORE: Share prices closed generally lower on profit-taking and lack of follow-through buying in fairly moderate trading. The Straits Times industrial index fell 3.48 to

1,114.94.

BOMBAY: Market closed for holiday.

LONDON: Shares were below their highs of the day in sluggish afternoon business, although a firm showing on Wall Street was helping to support prices. At 1538 GMT the FTSE 100 index was up 11.6 at 2,070.8.

ZURICH: Prices closed higher across the board in active trading as the market followed sharp gains in shares of credit Suisse. The All-Share index rose 15.3 to 985.5.

Alitalia to cancel flights

ROME, March 6, (Reuters): The Italian state airline Alitalia will cancel most of its flights to and from Italian airports for 24 hours from midnight because of a planned strike by cabin staff, it said today.

Domestic

The flight attendants' action would block all but a few of Alitalia's domestic and European flights tomorrow and most intercontinental flights would be postponed until after the strike, Alitalia said.

Cabin staff are protesting that their contract of employment has not been renewed after expiring more than a year ago.

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Dear Junior Readers,

March has brought beautiful weather with it. Spring, the nicest season of the year. The season when everything celebrates the ending of winter. Trees blossom, birds build their nests and many animals have babies.

However, you must be careful when leaving your houses early in the morning. Bitter cold winds may accompany the proud sun, so be sure to take a cardigan to school with you.

If the weather is warm during break time you can leave your cardigans in your classrooms but try to have name tags on all of your belongings so as not to get them mixed up with those of your friends.

Remember, I'm waiting for stories and poems from you. JUNIOR TIMES will be honoured to print your work.

Manal

So who's a tilly boy then?

By Gordon Hughes

PET shop owner Carl Sparrow got in a flutter when the money in his till mysteriously kept going missing.

He couldn't figure out why the day's takings were sometimes hundreds of pounds short of the amount shown on the shop till roll.

So he decided to lie in wait to trap the phantom thief — and discovered to his amazement that the culprit was Fraggie the parrot.

Scheming

The scheming bird had been swooping down from his perch when the shop was empty to play ring-around the hilly.

He liked the sound of the bell so much he would ring it up to the tune of £100 a time.

Now 29-year-old Sparrow is ringing the changes at his shop in Gatley near Manchester.

Priceless

He's decided to get a computerised, parrot-proof till to foil the cheeky polly.

Sparrow said: "Often the takings were light by large amounts at the end of the day. We couldn't understand it — until I kept watch and caught Fraggie in the act."

But despite his flying



CULPRIT: Fraggie the parrot

raids on the shop till, the cash and carry parrot won't be doing bird.

Sparrow has no intention of keeping him in a cage.

"Fraggie's not for sale either," he said. "He was part of the fixtures and fittings when I took the shop 18 months ago."

"To me he's priceless. He might be mischievous but I wouldn't dream of letting him go."

Continued from Thursday

Opposite me was a half-open door, through which I could smell food cooking. I crept to the door and peeped round the edge. In a kitchen the size of our barn at home stood a man with a tall white hat on his head, stirring something at a blackened stove. He was a giant, too, though not as big as the other one. Asleep beneath the table lay a black rat, as big as a dog, his eyes closed, and his long tail curled round the table legs. The fat Cook looked cross, and was talking to himself. "... two pinches of this ... two pinches of that, it's enough to drive you crazy. And when I've cooked it I can hardly pick it up." He slammed an iron tray on to the table, and then put on to it what looked like a dolls' tea service — a dolls' tea service to him, that is. Just the right size for me.

I know who that's for, I thought. The fat Giant picked up the tray, still muttering and complaining, and waddled past me, the keys tied on to his belt gleaming and clinking in the firelight. I walked softly after him, keeping in the shadows as much as possible, across courtyards, through vast rooms, up and downstairs we went, until at last he stopped, unlocked a door, and went in, locking

The magic poppy

the door after him.

What shall I do now? I wondered. I couldn't even look through the keyhole. I took the Pipe out of my pocket, and blew into it. Immediately the most beautiful music imaginable began, quite different from before; almost like a full orchestra. Irresistible, I thought, and so it proved to be. In a few moments the door was unlocked and the fat Giant popped his huge head out.

"Where's it coming from?" he said, looking up and down the passage.

"Don't tell me it's that tiny little creature making that beautiful sound," he said finally, catching sight of me. "Come in here, and play some more."

"Lock the door again," I said, when I was safely inside. Then I began to play again. He listened carefully for a moment or two, then slowly his eyes shut, and he too went straight off to sleep, leaning against the doorjamb.

Now for the King, I thought, and ran into the centre of the room.

"Where are you, Your

Majesty?" I shouted. My voice sounded like a tiny squeak in that great room. I called out again, and then listened. Was I wrong? Perhaps the King wasn't here at all. Perhaps I was in the wrong castle? Then faintly, from what seemed a long way off, I heard some banging, and an answering call.

Over in the corner stood a large wall cupboard with massive carved doors. The call had come from there. I stared up at the shiny, knobby face of the cupboard. Could I get up there? It didn't look impossible. In fact it was easy; and soon I was struggling with the heavy brass catch which held the two doors together. I pushed and pulled, and tugged and strained; and finally one of the doors swung open, with a grinding creak. There, standing on a pile of linen, holding his silver crown in one hand, his bearded and hair rough and untidy, stood the King. His magnificent robes were torn and dirty, but there was no mistaking him. He looked every inch a King. He seemed surprised to see a small, rather grubby little

girl opening his prison door.

"Who are you?" he said, smiling.

"Your Majesty!" I whispered. I couldn't curtsy, as I was having quite a job hanging on to the brass catch. "I'm-a-a-friend: I've not time to explain — we must get away from here, as quickly as we can." No sooner had I said this than he had tucked up his long robes and was shinning down the side of the cupboard, as if he did it every day. We ran to the window.

"I can hear thunder," the King said, gazing out across the lake.

"Quick then!" I put one leg out on to the sill. "We can climb down here. It's lucky this creeper grows as far as it does."

The climb down was more difficult than the climb up. It seemed much farther, and the height was dizzying. We were about half-way when something made me turn my head and look towards the lake. What I saw nearly made me fall. Striding across that huge expanse of water, for all the world like a child wading in a village pond, came Giant Slintin-

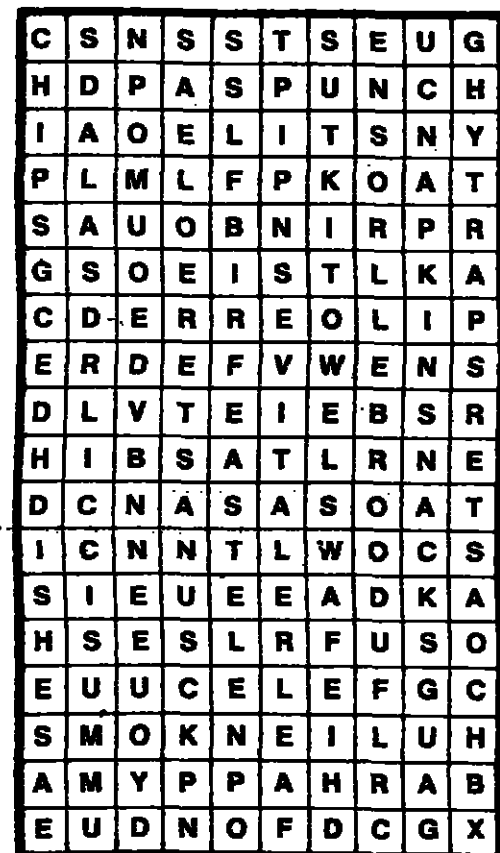


griell. Dangling from his belt were daggers and knives, and a long sword, studded with huge rubies, and over

his shoulder was the red and blue cloak I had caught a glimpse of in the lane.

To be continued

Word search



Clue: Take what comes (3,4 letters)

BIRTHDAY PARTY

- AMUSE
- BEER
- BUFFET
- CHEESE
- CHIPS
- COASTERS
- DANCE
- DINNER
- DISHES
- DIVERSION
- DOORBELL
- DRINKS
- FEAST
- FONDUE
- FOOD
- GAMES
- GRILL
- GUESTS
- HAPPY
- KISS
- LAUGH
- LUNCH
- MUSIC
- NAPKINS
- PARTY
- PLAN
- PUNCH
- RELATIVES
- RELAX
- SALADS
- SNACKS
- STEREO
- TABLE
- TOWELS
- TRAY
- WELCOME

Ha! Ha!

Did you hear about the little boy called Nicholas?

He was called Nicholas because he never wore any.

Why did the maniac burn his jacket?

'Cos he wanted a blazer.

What is the opposite of minimum?

Minidad.

What is hairy and coughs?

A coconut with a cold.

What game do horses like?

Stable-tennis.

What do you get if a cat swallows a ball of wool?

Mittens.

Where does a general keep his armies?

Up his sleeves.

What did the German policeman say to his chest?

"You're under a -vest!"

WIFE: Have you put the cat out?

HUSBAND: Yes, I've just trodden on its tail.

Happy birthday

Khaled Mahmoud Abdul Majeed Mustafa celebrates his birthday today. Many happy returns from parents, family and friends.



Collection corner

Scraps

EARLY scraps were printed sheets of brightly coloured pretty pictures which were cut with fine scissors and mounted on sheets of paper or in scrapbooks to make patterns. Sometimes they were printed as part of a wrapping for a product such as Colman's starch so that children could collect series of pictures for their albums. Later, scraps were printed in sheets on thick shiny paper with embossed patterns, and these did not have to be cut out carefully but simply taken apart. They were often designs of pretty costumes, military uniforms, animals, or flowers, and as well as being put into books, they were often used to decorate greetings cards, or put onto boxes or screens. The boxes and screens were completely covered with glued-on scraps and then varnished to give a smooth, hard surface. Sometimes you can see old screens in auctions or jumble sales, but they are fun to make yourself, either from bought scraps or from cut-out pictures from coloured magazines.

Scraps are still made today, often in the same old-fashioned designs of flowers or farmyard animals, but you can also find new ones of cars, aeroplanes, trains and horses. You can often find quite old sheets of them in toyshops and stationers, and these complete sheets are nice to keep whole in books. If you have a lot, though, cut them up to cover loose-leaf files or exercise books, or to decorate a wastepaper basket or lampshade. You can varnish them with thin clear varnish to make them really permanent and firm.



Scraps of motor transport, planes and ships are popular today



Flowers are another popular scrap design



Scraps often show nursery rhyme characters, such as the little boy bringing a little nut tree



Crossword solution from Thursday
Across: 1 Transport; 7 Rob; 8 Emancipate; 9 Tie; 10 Distress; 14 Stargazer; 17 Hot; 19 Awesome; 21 May; 22 Expressly
Down: 1 Tweak; 2 Assist; 3 Sow; 4 Ovens; 5 Trot; 6 Abbey; 11 Elm; 12 Fellow; 13 Thank; 15 Trump; 16 Needy; 18 Tape; 20 Etc

PAINTING TIME

Colour in Susie's painting—Susie too.

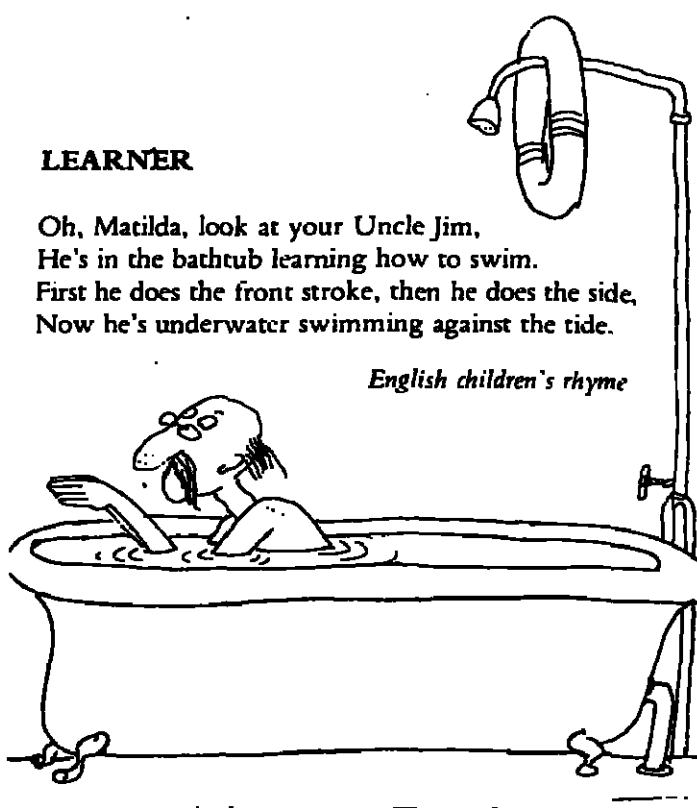


Poem

LEARNER

Oh, Matilda, look at your Uncle Jim,
He's in the bathtub learning how to swim.
First he does the front stroke, then he does the side,
Now he's underwater swimming against the tide.

English children's rhyme



Factfile FROM THE GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS

DR RON HILL (6 21 SEPT 1958), THE 1960 EUROPEAN AND 1970 COMMONWEALTH MARATHON CHAMPION, HAS NOT RUN A DAY'S TRAINING SINCE 20 DEC 1964. HIS TRAINING LOG SHOWS A TOTAL OF 106,157 MILES (170,850 KM) FROM 3 SEPT 1956 TO 14 JULY 1968. HE HAS FINISHED 111 MARATHONS AND RACED IN 49 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.



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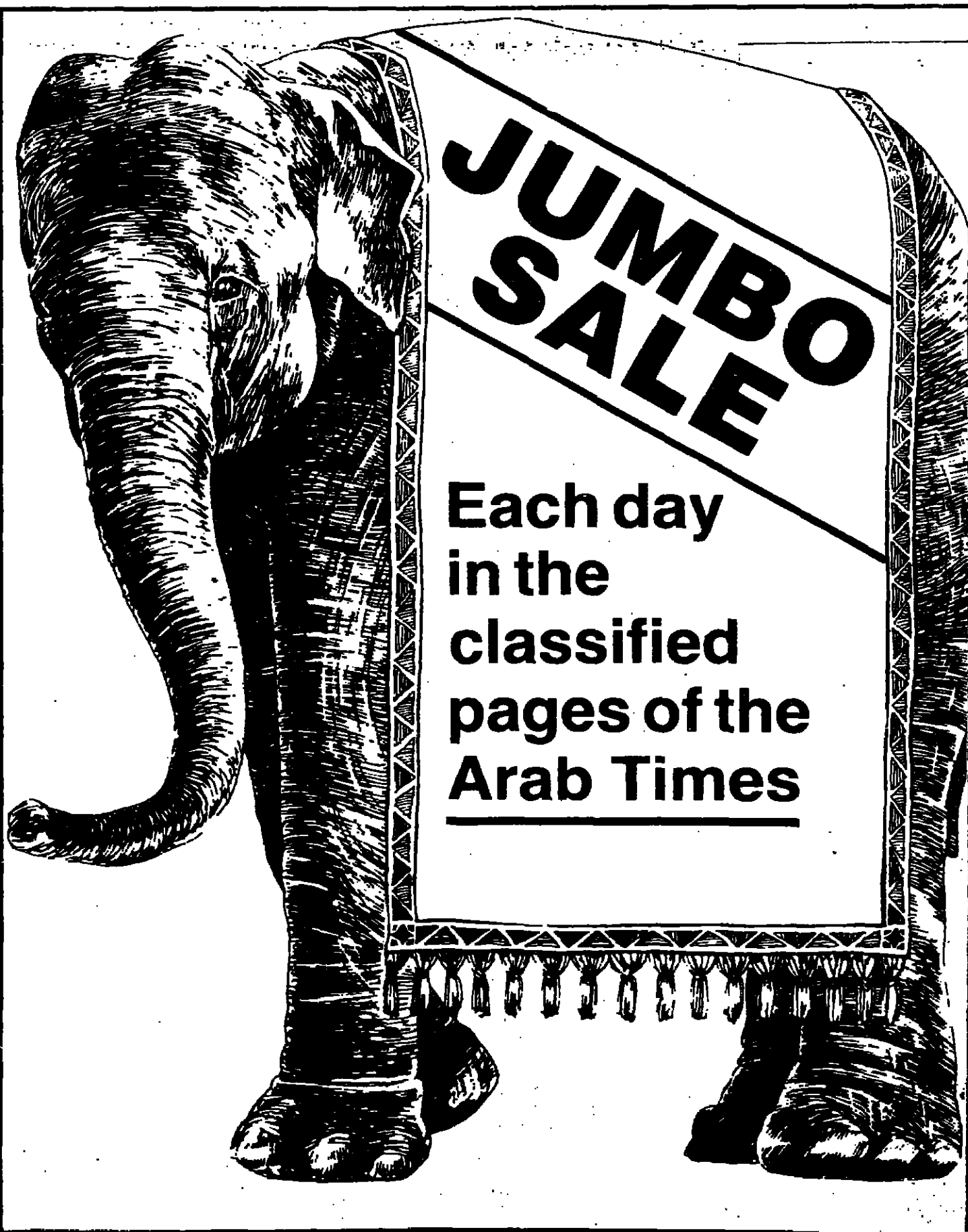
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SPORTS Lopez defends title successf...

Lopez defends IBF title successfully

SACRAMENTO, California, (UPI) — Tony Lopez used powerful uppercuts and withstood a middle-round challenge from veteran Rocky Lockridge yesterday to successfully defend his International Boxing Federation junior lightweight title with a unanimous decision.

Lopez, of Sacramento, who improved his record to 32-1, knocked the challenger down in the third round and again hurt Lockridge in the eighth round of the 12-round bout.

"It was easier than the first fight," said Lopez, who claimed the title from Lockridge last July 23, also in Arco Arena. "We studied the films of the last fight and learned. I'm 24 rounds smarter now. If I have to box to win, I will. If I have to fight to win, I will."

Swedish yacht takes lead

TOKYO, March 6, (AP) — A Swedish yacht sailed by 1988 Seoul Olympic silver medalist Marit Soderstrom and Birgitta Bengtsson took the lead today after four races in the International Women's 470 class Yacht Championships.

UNITED STATES CLING SECOND PLACE IN MEDALS TABLE Soviet Union grab top position in World Indoor meet

BUDAPEST, March 6, (UPI) — The Soviet Union emerged as the top nation with four gold, five silver and four bronze medals as the World Indoor Track and Field Championships closed yesterday.

Despite the non-appearance of Olympic champions Carl Lewis and Joe de Loach, sprinters Floyd Heard and Mark Witherspoon and the recently retired Florence Griffith-Joyner, the United States was second in the medals table with four golds, three silvers and four bronze medals.

East Germany grabbed eight medals, including two golds, while West Germany had two golds in a six-medal haul.

The Soviet, American and German victories were largely predictable, but there were also notable successes for Cuba, which boycotted the Olympic games six months ago.

Ivanova beats Rosa Mota in women's race

LOS ANGELES, March 6, (AP) — Canadian Art Boileau, who had a vulture's view of the race, saved his energy for the final six miles (9.7 kilometres) and surged past the exhausted Gidamis Shahanga yesterday to win the Los Angeles marathon for the second time in three years.

Boileau wins Los Angeles marathon

Boileau's time for the 26.2-mile (42.2 kilometres) race was 2 hours, 13 minutes, 1 second, which was 27 seconds faster than Colombia's Pedro Ortiz.

ago. Roger Kingdom earned America's first gold on Friday night in the 60 metres hurdles.

Antonio McKay retained his 400 metres crown, Larry Myricks his long jump title and Mike Conley the triple jump.

Conley, who won a bronze in the long jump, and Jamaican Merlene Ottey, who won the 200 metres gold and a bronze in the 100 metres, were the only double medal winners.

Disappointment

Said Aouita, whose grand Olympic dreams ended in disappointment, proved that he has recovered from the injuries that affected him last September with a victory in the 3,000.

"Many people thought after my poor performances in Seoul I would never again produce my best, and I was able to prove today I am back to my best," Aouita said.

Retained

He allowed his former training partner, American Sydney Maree, a former world outdoor record holder to take up the fast early pace, then timed his run for home perfectly.

Hauke Fuhrtrugge of East Germany (3:37.80) could not live with O'Sullivan's finishing burst but was just held off by Jeff Atkinson of the United States (3:38.12), who pipped Maree for the bronze on the line to break Steve Scott's 10-year-old American record of 3:38.3.

European champion Herve Phelippeau finished fifth in 3:38.76.

The men's long jump was a superb final which Myricks won with a best of the year leap of 8.37 metres. Conley was in silver medal position on 8.11 metres until the final round when West

46.40. Olympic 800 metre silver medalist Christine Wachtel of East Germany won the 800 metres title in 1:59.24, with silver medalist Tatyana Grebenchuk of the Soviet Union (1:59.53) and Ellen Kjesling of East Germany (1:59.68) reversing the positions they finished in at the European indoors in The Hague two weeks ago.

Ireland's Marcus O'Sullivan, who set the world indoor record of 3:35.60, in East Rutherford on Feb 10, retained his 1500 metres title in 3:36.64, a time only he has bettered this year.

He allowed his former training partner, American Sydney Maree, a former world outdoor record holder to take up the fast early pace, then timed his run for home perfectly.

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Cuba's Sotomayor celebrates his new world record in high jump by dancing in front of the bar. (Reuter wirephoto)

Medals				
Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Soviet Union	4	5	4	13
United States	4	3	4	11
East Germany	2	2	4	8
West Germany	2	2	2	6
Cuba	2	1	1	4
Britain	1	1	0	2
Jamaica	1	1	1	3
Romania	1	1	1	3
Italy	0	0	3	3
Netherlands	0	0	0	0
Spain	0	0	1	1
Australia	0	0	1	1
Bulgaria	0	0	1	1
Ireland	0	0	1	1
Kenya	0	0	1	1
Morocco	0	0	1	1
Czechoslovakia	0	0	1	1
China	0	0	1	1
Ghana	0	0	1	1
Trinidad	0	0	1	1
Canada	0	0	1	1
Norway	0	0	1	1
Sweden	0	0	1	1



Zola Ivanova crosses the finish line. (Reuter wirephoto)

pion Rosa Mota of Portugal by nearly a minute.

Ivanova's time was 2:34.42. Mota was timed in 2:35.27 and Olga Duryuzina, also of the Soviet Union, was third in 2:40.25.

Shahanga, of Tanzania, took the lead after four miles (6.4 kilometres) and raced to a 75-metre lead between eighth and ninth miles. But he struggled through the last few miles. His pace on miles 21-23 (33.8 kilometres) to 37 kilometres fell from 5 minutes, 7 seconds to 5:26 and then to 5:35.

"I tried very hard," Shahanga said. "I don't regret any of this. I like racing."

Record

Boileau's winning time in 1987 was a course record 2:13:08, which was broken last year by Martin Mondragon of Mexico.

Shahanga won the 1984 Los Angeles International Marathon and was second in the inaugural La Marathon in 1986.

Plaatjes, who competes without international affiliation, was in second place for much of the race until being passed in the 15th mile (24-kilometre mark) by Ortiz, who came from about 60

yards (55 metres) off the pace.

Plaatjes, who was third here last year, passed Ortiz after the 17-mile mark (27.4 kilometres) before dropping out. Plaatjes fled South Africa in 1985 and hopes to become a US citizen. He lives in Chicago.

Boileau and Ivanova each received \$26,385 cash and a luxury sedan worth \$35,000. Should they win their divisions in the New York City marathon, they would win a \$300,000 bonus offered by Mercedes-Benz.

Ivanova and Duryuzina were part of a four-member Soviet contingent. The first distance runners to compete here since the Soviets boycotted the 1984 summer games.

Ivanova said she hopes to be able to take the car home with her. A Soviet interpreter said Ivanova might run the Chicago or New York city marathons this year, but Ivanova did not seem to be aware of the bonus.

Chance

"I hope that due to my victory more Soviet athletes will have a chance to go to other countries and compete," Ivanova said.

Ivanova had finished second to Mota in the 1987 world championships in Rome and was third in the 1987 Tokyo women's marathon, which Mota won.

Ivanova said she thought the petite Mota was invincible.

"Everytime I compete against her, I look at her — she is so slender, so little," Ivanova said. "I think, 'how can I win if I am a little bit bigger?'"

"I always admired her will to win. That's what helped me to win this time."

Mota, a bronze medalist in the 1984 Olympics, dropped out of the Osaka women's marathon after 16 miles due to a muscle pull.

"I started feeling not very good before the half marathon," Mota said. "Today I ran my race and I got second."

The fourth annual marathon drew 18,861 runners.

Bucks end Cavaliers' 22-game winning streak

NEW YORK, March 6, (AP) — Cleveland went 2-for-16 from the field during a nine-point fourth quarter and Terry Cummings scored 26 points as the Milwaukee Bucks ended the Cavaliers' 22-game home winning streak 103-98 yesterday.

Cleveland led 89-79 after three quarters, but the Cavaliers missed their first eight shots during a 12-2 Milwaukee run at the start of the fourth period that tied the game at 91.

The Bucks were unable to gain the lead until Ricky Pierce hit a fast-break layup off a bad pass by Cleveland's Brad Daugherty, putting Milwaukee up 97-96 with 2:20 left.

Larry Nance, who scored seven of the Cavaliers' nine points in the final quarter, made an 18-footer to put Cleveland back up 98-97, but a baseline jumper by Pierce gave Milwaukee the lead for good with 1:30 to play.

Daugherty led Cleveland with 30 points and Nance had 27. Larry Krystkowiak scored 21 for the Bucks.

In other National Basketball Association games, it was Utah 85, Atlanta 83; Houston 88, Los Angeles Lakers 83; Washington 114, Charlotte 101; Detroit 109, Miami 100; Indiana 121, Portland 118; and the Los Angeles

Kings 110, Golden State 96.

Jazz 85, Hawks 83

John Stockton and Bobby Hansen scored 20 points each and Karl Malone sank two free throws with 43 seconds left, giving the Utah Jazz an 85-83 victory over the Atlanta Hawks.

Rockets 88, Lakers 83

Sleepy Floyd led a third-quarter comeback and hit a crucial jumper with 14 seconds to play, leading Houston to a 88-83 win over the Los Angeles Lakers that snapped the Rockets' seven-game losing streak.

Bullets 114, Hornets 101

Jeff Malone scored 34 points and Washington reserves fuelled a 14-1 fourth-quarter burst, leading the Bullets to their fourth straight victory, 114-101 over the Charlotte Hornets, who lost for the fourth consecutive time.

Pistons 109, Heat 100

Isiah Thomas and Vinnie Johnson each scored 22 points as the Detroit Pistons grabbed a big early lead and held on for a 109-100 victory over Miami.

Pacers 121, Trail Blazers 118, (OT)

Detlef Schrempf scored nine points in overtime, including two free throws with 20 seconds left, and Reggie Miller scored 29 points, leading Indiana to a 121-118 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers.

Brabham and Robinson win Miami Grand Prix

MIAMI, March 6, (AP) — Geoff Brabham and Chip Robinson combined to win the Miami Grand Prix three-hour sports car race today in the favoured Nissan prototype.

But Brabham, the defending IMSA Camel GT champion and 1987 Miami winner, and Robinson, a former series champ, did not come away with their first victory of the season without a battle.

John Nielsen of Denmark and defending Miami champion Price Cobb, co-driving a Jaguar XJR-9, finished second, 7.799 seconds behind the Nissan.

A Porsche 962 driven by Bob Wollek of France started next to the pole-winning Nissan in the front row of the 25-car field, and stayed on the same lap as Brabham through the first hour.

Crash

A crash by Jan Lammers of the Netherlands in a Jaguar XJR-9 brought out a full-course caution flag at the end of the first 60 minutes and allowed the leaders to make their scheduled pit stops in a more leisurely fashion.

Robinson got into the Nissan, but Wollek, who co-drove with

John Andretti, stayed in the Porsche. When the green flag waved again, Wollek quickly caught Robinson and moved into the lead on lap 53.

Wollek pulled away to leads of up to 13 seconds before making his scheduled pit stop three minutes into the final hour on lap 86.

The Frenchman, who co-drove with John Andretti and Derek Bell of Britain to victory last month in the Daytona 24-hours, decided to remain in the car. But the engine stalled, cutting off power to his cool-suit and overheating Wollek.

Temporary

He made one lap before returning to the pits. By that time, Andretti had gone to put away his cool suit. By the time he got into the Porsche, it had lost three laps and left Brabham and the Nissan in command.

The Pontiac Firebird of Jeff Kline and Costas Los of Greece was third, a lap behind on the 1.87-mile (3-kilometre), 11-turn temporary circuit that winds through waterfront Bicentennial Park and along a portion of Biscayne boulevard.

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SPORTS BRIEFS

PGA Classic

CORAL SPRINGS, Fla., March 6, (Reuters): Blaine McCallister, the worst putter on the US tour in 1982, yesterday putted his way to a four-stroke victory in the \$800,000 PGA Classic Golf Tournament.

McCallister shot a final round of eight-under-par 64 to set a tournament record with 22-under, 266 total.

Payne Stewart finished second for the third straight year here and Pate finished tied for third place with a late-surge Curtis Strange, who shot an impressive seven-under 65.

Seniors golf

INDIAN WELLS, California, March 6, (AP): Miller Barber shot a 69 yesterday finishing with a 7-under-par 281 to capture the Vintage Invitational Seniors Golf Tournament.

Barber, who had a flawless round with three birdies and no bogeys, finished one stroke ahead of Bob Charles, Larry Mowry and Don Bies.

The \$55,500 for first place moved Barber's yearly total to \$170,055 and his seniors career total to \$2,01 million, making him the first senior to go over the \$2-million mark.

Ski jumping

OSLO, Norway, March 6, (AP): Jens Weissflog of East Germany, the 70-metre hill world champion at Lahli, Finland, two weeks ago, won the 90-metre ski jumping World Cup event yesterday at the Holmenkollen Ski Festival. He finished 15.5 points ahead of Norway's Jon Inge Kjoerum.

University games

SOFIA, Bulgaria, March 6, (AP): Czechoslovakia swept all three medals in the men's 30-kilometre cross-country skiing competition, and South Korea defeated Japan in ice hockey for the first time ever in international competition yesterday at the World University Winter Games.

Lanka Colts beat CCK

LANKA COLTS beat CCK by 22 runs in a Burud Trophy League 'A' match played at the EPI park on Friday.

Batting first, Lanka Colts took 176 for five wickets through some neat and stylish batting by Ossen who made 66 runs. Roy, Roville and Ralph scored 19, 12 and 12 respectively gave able support to Ossen. A further boost was given to the Colts in the 11th over when the unbroken sixth wicket stand of 35 runs between Solomonsz and Adi, who remained unbeaten on 24 and 18 respectively. Left-hander Saeed with two for 22 was the most successful bowler for CCK. Zaher and Riflat accounted for one each.

CCK started their reply through Raees and Amanullah. The pair resisted the Colts attack. Cols made the breakthrough in the tenth over through Oliver who had Amanullah run out for 18. Raees misread a teaser from Oliver only to be stumped by skipper Hiran. Raees made 42.

At the 17th over, the CCK scoring rate declined with Oliver, Ralph, Lal and Ossen constantly troubling the batsmen. Only Zaher made a defiant 21 before he was out for a catch by Lal off Ossen. CCK finally managed to score 154 for eight wickets in 27 overs with Burhan, Mansur and Saeed contributing 17 runs each. Oliver scored three for 34, Ralph two for 32, Lal one for 19 and Ossen one for 20 shared the bowling honours for Colts.

Second series

WELLINGTON, March 6, (Reuters): The New Zealand selectors named an unchanged team from the one which beat Pakistan on Saturday for the second of the four-game series to be played in Wellington on Wednesday.

Fast bowler Richard Hadlee was unavailable due to a strained achilles tendon.

New Zealand: John Wright (captain), Robert Vance, Andrew Jones, Mark Greatbatch, Martin Crowe, Jeff Crowe, Chris Kugeleijn, Ian Smith, Martin Snedden, Gary Robertson, Willie Watson, Danny Morrison.

BRIDGE

HUBARA Club Bridge results played on Saturday.

N/S
1. Adam & Ghani
2. Gaffar & Arora
3. Dr Adil and Ahmed Dawid
E/W
1. Pereira & D'Souza
2. Diab & Ibrahim
3. Foud & Bleit

SHRIVER AND ADAMS WIN DOUBLES TITLE

Graf grabs US Hardcourt title

SAN ANTONIO, March 6, (AP): Steffi Graf coasted to her third title of 1989 yesterday with a 6-1, 6-4 victory over Ann Henricksson in the final of the US Women's Hardcourt Tennis Championships.

Graf, the world's No. 1 ranked player from West Germany, overcame blustery conditions to win the \$40,000 top prize at the McFarlin tennis centre. Henricksson took home \$20,000.

As in her victories earlier this year at the Australian Open and the Virginia Slims of Washington, Graf successfully defended her title here without losing a set. She escaped two set points on Saturday in a semifinal victory over Hana Mandlikova, but was never threatened by Henricksson, an eight-year pro who was playing Graf for the first time.

Graf jumped to a 5-0 lead in the first set of the nationally televised final.

Henricksson, 29, said she eventually adjusted to Graf's hard-hit ground strokes, which enabled her to hold serve. But at 2-2 in the second set, Henricksson was broken in a key game that was extended to six deuce points.

Henricksson held serve the rest of the match, but was unable to break Graf again.

Henricksson said she had hoped for colder windier weather than might have neutralised Graf's explosive ground strokes and serve.

The unseeded Henricksson reached the final through a half of the draw that saw numerous early upsets.

After an easy first set, Graf said she occasionally made

errors in the second set trying to hit close to the lines. But she never really struggled to stay ahead after the sole second-set service break.

Hard

Asked if she believes she is playing better than her 1988 Grand Slam year, the 19-year-old Graf said, "I think I am, but it's hard to show that the last two days (because of the adverse weather). But I felt it earlier in the week."

Ten-year veteran Pam Shriver and Katrina Adams won the doubles title, defeating Patty Fendick and Canada's Jill Hetherington 3-6, 6-1, 6-4.

Shriver has won 80 career doubles titles, but this was the first time she teamed with Adams. Shriver and Adams split \$12,000, while the losers split \$6,000.



Graf: third title

India draw opening tour match

West Indies start favourites in one-day series

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, March 6, (Reuters): West Indies, who have never lost a one-day series at home, will have to be at their best to maintain that record against India in the five-match rubber which opens in Bridgetown tomorrow.

The touring team showed they have quickly adapted to conditions in the Caribbean, all their batsmen playing innings of substance in the solitary warm-up game against a West Indies President's XI which ended in a draw yesterday.

West Indies will be without their main strike bowler Malcolm Marshall and middle-order batsman Karli Hooper, both of whom are injured.

Record

West Indies holds a formidable record in one-day international matches against India. They have won 18 of their 22 encounters.

Not surprisingly, Indian captain Dilip Vengsarkar rates them as the most powerful force in limited overs cricket despite their failure to win the last two World Cups.

"I know it will be very hard to beat them in this series, especially as they are at home but we have a strong batting line-up and an accurate attack," Vengsarkar said. "Obviously, our main

priority is the Test series."

The Indians were given a filip by the arrival on Saturday of Navjot Singh, who has been given bail on a charge of culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

Vengsarkar said he expected Singh to play in the opening one-day match. The Indian captain's determination to pack the early order with stroke players would explain the omission from the squad of Arun Lal and the elevation of Ravi Shastri to open with Krishnamachari Srikkanth.

Attack

The Indian bowling attack is likely to include three seamers—the two Sharmas, Chetan and Sanjeev, supporting the in-form Kapil Dev, who took six for 27 in the President's XI first innings.

A third Sharma, Ajay, an all-rounder who bowls left-arm spin, will back-up spinners Shastri and Arshad Ayub.

West Indies have recalled Eldine Baptiste, who captured 21 wickets at an average of only 12 in the recently completed Red Stripe Cup competition, to their squad of 13.

With Winston Benjamin suffering from a dislocated thumb, Baptiste will probably form a four-pronged pace attack with Curtly Ambrose, Ian Bishop and Courtney Walsh.

Keith Arthurton comes in for

Hooper and Phil Simmons, who scored a swashbuckling century for the President's XI yesterday, in the squad as cover for openers Gordon Greenidge and Desmond Haynes.

Simmons underwent an emergency operation to remove a blood clot on the brain after being felled by a short-pitched delivery from Gloucestershire fast bowler David Lawrence during West Indies' England tour last year.

Draw

Kapil Dev followed his six-wicket haul in the West Indies President's XI second innings with a cavalier 97 as India's opening tour match ended in a tame draw yesterday.

His big hitting was matched later in the day by President's XI opener Phil Simmons who struck an unbeaten 116 out of his side's second innings total of 183 for three.

They had been set the impossible task of scoring 418 for victory in three hours plus the mandatory 20 overs.

Simmons, who had not passed 50 in 11 first class innings since being struck on the head by a delivery by David Lawrence during West Indies' England tour last year, completed his century off only 134 balls.

He hit 12 fours, three of them

Nomads lose in Muscat

THIS weekend saw Kuwait (KMMC) Nomads final game before the cup final when they travelled to Muscat for their last Merit table game of the season. Visa problems and injury meant Kuwait travelled without five players. However the team that travelled put up a brave display before going down by 12 points to 7.

Kuwait opened the score in the first two minutes with an excellent penalty by Robinson. For the next ten minutes it was Kuwait continually rushing the Muscat line. At one point Bulless broke clean through but for some reason shied away from the line and the chance was gone.

Muscat scored next through an elementary mistake by the Kuwait defence. A harmless kick to touch was thrown in quickly which found Wilkins, an ex-Kuwait player unmarked and who dived over to score. Another ex-Kuwait player, Adrian Brad-

bury converted to give Muscat a 6-3 half time lead.

In the second half Muscat kept Kuwait pinned back. In the line-out there was a battle royal developing between Kuwait skipper Hill and Muscat lock Fidler. In the end it was the work of Sherwood that gave Kuwait the edge in this department.

In the mauls debutant Dave Sanderson had an excellent game for Kuwait and he along with McDivitt added much brute strength to the proceedings. However Kuwait made their task doubly difficult when from a short penalty Fidler broke through to score near the posts. The later loss of flanker Tony Sole did not help Kuwait's cause, but his replacement Jean-Marie Barret put in a fine display.

With 15 minutes left Kuwait finally broke out with the ball in their hands. Good running from Harvey found Robinson in support. His excellent pass found Hill who sold the sea son's most obvious dummy to score. Adams failed to convert the try and an earlier penalty miss left the score in Muscat's favour.

Options

There were better things this week from the pack and the forwards delivered some good first and second phase ball. However too often the pass from Sanderson went astray, and poor choices of options failed to relieve the pressure when it was needed. At the end of the day it is often the team that makes least mistakes that wins and on this occasion Kuwait made too many mistakes.

Skipper Hill now has the difficult task of raising the team for next week's cup final away to Bahrain. Injuries to Honston, Ellis, Sole, Shipley Winfield and Bulless will not help preparations. However it is a very long time since the Nomads lost three games in a row, and Bahrain may feel the wrath of a team with a point to prove.

Virginia Slims

OKLAHOMA CITY, March 6, (AP): Manon Bollegraf of the Netherlands defeated Leila Meskhi of the Soviet Union in straight sets yesterday to win the \$100,000 Virginia Slims of Oklahoma tennis tournament.

Bollegraf took the match 6-4, 6-4 to claim the \$17,000 first prize and her first career championship.

Blue Star enter finals

BLUE STAR reached the finals of Sabah Cricket League crushing Friends Cricket Club by 81 runs played on Friday at the Safeway ground.

After winning the toss Blue Star captain James opted to bat first.

Rodney and Masood opened and scored 55 when Masood caught by Sobah off Iqbal for 30. Four runs later Salim was bowled for a single. Then a fruitful partnership of 41 between Rodney and Sandeep saw score reach 100 in the 15th over. Rodney was out caught by Anjum for 39 off Rashid.

Sandeep playing cautiously went on to score 49 with four well-timed hits to the fence. Ayub scored 18 quick runs before being out. Tariq remained not out on 10. As the 25 overs reached the end Blue Star's total stood at 170 for nine wickets. For Friends, Rashid claimed two wickets, whereas Iqbal, Tariq and Khalid a wicket each.

In reply Friends opened through Iqbal and Anjum. Iqbal facing Saleem was bowled for a duck. Rony Jr bowling from the other end, missed a hat trick in his second over.

Friends batsmen were back in the pavilion with seven wickets down in 11 overs for 41 runs. Eight overs later Friends C.C. were 89 all out. Anjum, Tanuvar and Saeed scored 23, 23 and 17 respectively.

For Blue Star's Rony Jr took

four wickets for 13 runs in four overs. Saleem claimed two for 21 runs in four overs. Ashfaq claimed two wickets for 11 runs in two overs. Tariq and Masood claimed one wicket each. Blue Star will face Qaid-e-Millat in finals.

Lendl heads strong field in Eagle Classic

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona, March 6, (AP): Ivan Lendl, the top ranked men's tennis player in the world, heads a strong field in the \$415,000 WCT Eagle Classic of Scottsdale which begins today.

Other players scheduled to compete in the 32-man singles field are Jimmy Connors, Stefan Edberg, Michael Chang, Johan Kriek, Thomas Muster and Kevin Curren plus defending champions Brad Gilbert and Mikael Pernfors.

Gilbert won the event in 1987 while Pernfors won it last October. The 24-over tourney, known then as the WCT "Scottsdale Open", was won by John McEnroe in 1986. Curren has reached the finals twice.

Connors, who has won a record 107 singles title in his career, received one of three wild-card berths and is making his first appearance in the tournament here.

BKME beat Flying Arrows to win trophy

THE Bank of Kuwait and Middle East clinched the Aresons Thursday League trophy with a convincing 56 run win over Flying Arrows at the KOC ground.

BKME skipper Mahmood Bastaki won the toss and elected to bat first. Openers Ramesh and Ronnie started off well collecting 33 runs in five overs before Ramesh top-edged an intended drive off Ashok to Salim Bousheiri for 18. Bastaki followed soon lofting a Javed delivery into the hands of Albert for 4.

Ronnie was then joined by Sandeep Arya and these two put on 96 runs for the third wicket to boost BKME's total to 137 before Ronnie was run out to a

fine throw from Albert for 60 which contained 5 fours.

In an effort to increase the run rate BKME kept losing wickets and at the end of 24 overs, BKME had scored 181 for 7, other major contributions coming from Sandeep Arya with 51 with 4 fours and Sethi 19 with 2 fours.

For Flying Arrows, Mukesh was the most successful bowler with two wickets, while Ashok, Javed Vijay and Norbert got one each.

Flying Arrows innings soon lost momentum as Salim and Ronny Jr ran through their front line batsmen. First Ronny Jr had Salim Bousheiri caught at the

wicket by Ronnie and then bowled Verold for 4.

At the other end Salim caught and bowled Francis for 22 and then bowled Mukesh for one to have Flying Arrows struggling at 33 for 4. Ashok was the only batsman to put up some fight but was stranded at 69 which included two sixes off James and 7 fours. Flying Arrows were finally all out for 126 leaving BKME winners by 56 runs.

For BKME, Bastaki claimed two wickets. Ronny Jr, Salim and James claimed two wickets each conceding 26, 7 and 31 runs respectively. Ayub and Mathew were the other wicket takers with one each.

European soccer

Inter and Real tighten grip on league titles

ROME, March 6, (Reuters): Managers Giovanni Trapattoni and Leo Beenhakker echoed each other's sighs of relief after single, second-half goals allowed Internazionale Milan and Real Madrid to tighten their grip on the Italian and Spanish League titles at the weekend.

The fates of the two big sides followed a remarkably similar course. In Milan, Nicola Bertu scored in the 58th minute against ninth-placed Verona to put Trapattoni's Inter three points clear of nearest rivals Napoli.

"We didn't have many chances and I was very lucky with my goal," Bertu said.

In Madrid, a 60th minute goal by defender Manuel Sanchez against 11th placed Oviedo kept Real three points ahead of Barcelona.

Missed

"We are not so forgiving usually," said Beenhakker. "We missed many goals opportunities."

Beenhakker said he believed midfielder Martin Vasquez, who injured his knee in the match, would be fit for the second leg of Real's European Cup quarter-final against PSV Eindhoven on March 15.

Trapattoni was delighted to gain an extra point over former champions Napoli, held to a goalless draw at Pescara.

Napoli's Argentine captain

Diego Maradona, tightly marked throughout the match, needed four stitches in his lip after a clash with Pescara defender Gianpiero Gasperini.

"I lost on points and I want a rematch," joked Maradona, a large dressing covering his wound.

Defending champions AC Milan also had a frustrating afternoon which ended 1-1 against Lazio in Rome, a result they put down to exhaustion after a tough 0-0 draw at Werder Bremen in the European Cup quarter-finals last Wednesday.

Taken off

"Here in Rome we found it terribly hot after the rain in Bremen and it took our breath away," said forward Pietro Paolo Virdis who was taken off at the start of the second half.

Although Barcelona were happy with their first away League win over Sporting Gijon for 15 years on Saturday, Real Madrid's other rivals in Spain also had an unhappy weekend.

Aleico Madrid coach Colin Addison had no excuses for a 2-0 defeat to Cadiz which cost his side third place.

"We played a very poor game," he said. "The first half was normal, the second was awful."

Portuguese defending champions Porto dropped another precious point in a 1-1 draw at

Belenenses and next Sunday's home clash with leaders Benfica looks like being make-or-break for the championship.

Benfica thrashed Fafe 4-0 to open a six-point gap with only 10 games left and victory over Porto next week would virtually assure them their 25th League title.

The Dutch title race also looks to be almost over after leaders PSV Eindhoven crushed Willem II Tilburg 7-0, extending to six points the gap between themselves and Ajax Amsterdam who drew 0-0 against Roda JC Kerkrade.

Chasing

Juul Ellerman, Ronald Koeman and Romario each scored twice for PSV, who are chasing their fourth successive title, and Hans Gillhaus provided the other goal.

Ajax lost striker Stefan Pettersson who was sent off after only 20 minutes and could miss the key game between Ajax and PSV in two weeks.

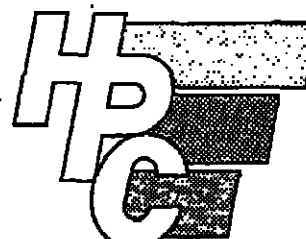
West German leaders Bayern Munich, despite a record 20th victory in a row — 2-1 against Stuttgart on Saturday — are staying low-key about the likelihood of winning their 11th first division crown.

Asked if the championship had now become a one-horse race, Bayern's captain Klaus Augenthaler insisted: "No, not yet ... nothing has been settled."

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